FOGHORN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST OSBORNE GROUP FOG

Vol. 2 No. 4 Circulation 4000 January 1983

CALENDER

Under this heading you will find the listing of activities and events of authorized chapters. If you want your authorized chapter events listed here, send the date, time, place, contact name and phone in an envelope marked "CALENDER" to P. O. Box 11683-A, Palo Alto, CA, 94306. Allow at least six weeks for publication. Listings are the responsibility of chapter officers. For a list of other groups, see "CONTACTS" later in this issue.

Date	City	Chapter	Time	Address	Contact No.
Feb 3	Santa Clara CA	SC FOG	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Dr.	408-947-1650
Feb 9	Oakland CA	East Bay FOG	6:00pm	B & B Electric, 2832 Ford Street	415-841-5900
Feb 17	Santa Clara CA	SC FOG	7:30pm	5201 Patrick Henry Dr.	408-947-1650
Feb 24	San Francisco CA	SF FOG	7:30pm	St. Aidan's Church, Diamond Heights & Goldmine Dr.	415-921-0257
Feb 24	Santa Rosa CA	No. Bay FOG	7:30pm	2600 Northcoast	707-546-0145

Remember: Annual Meeting will be March 18th, 8:00 pm, in San Francisco. Place will be announced later. Please try to come to this meeting.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2 FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IS ON PAGE 25.

The First Osborne Group (FOG) has been formed as a users' group for all persons who use or are interested in portable computers. Membership is available to any interested party whether or noty they currently own a computer. The FOGHORN is published monthly by the First Osborne Group for its members. A subscription is included with membership in FOG: US - $24.00/yr., elsewhere - add $6.00 for postage. Address all inquiries to FOG, P. O. Box 11683-A, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

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Submissions

All articles, letters-to-the-editor, member announcements, classified ads, etc., should be WordStar files, "D" mode (except for program listings), formatted to 60 columns, with paragraphs indented five (5) spaces, NO PRINT COMMANDS, and Hyphen-Help OFF. They should be on (Osborne 1 readable) diskettes. The submissions can be sent in the mail (to P. O. Box 11683-A, Palo Alto, CA, 94306), copied to a FOG disketted at a Santa Clara FOG meeting, delivered (by arrangement) to a FOG officer, or sent by modem to the editor (408-249-5223) or other officer of FOG. "By Modem" is by far the most convenient method. If you don't have a modem, get together with a friend who does and send your file. It will be a fun experience.

* * *

Commercial Advertising

Commercial ads can either be submitted as document files, using the same parameters as those listed for articles etc., above or as camera ready copy. If you submit a full page ad on disk, use the Wordstar default margins (55 lines, 70 columns). Half page ads are 27 lines by 70 columns or 55 lines by 35 columns.

Size limitations for camera ready art are as follows:

full page: 9.5" x 7"
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quarter page: 4.75" x 3/5"

Rates, effective with the March issue are:

$270/full page, $150/half page, $105/quarter page

For advertisers who wish to run ads in three sequential issues, a special rate is available. Three months at the rate in effect at the time the order is placed and paid in full providing the ads are run in the subsequent three issues. The Board of Trustees will be reviewing the rates monthly and increasing them as the membership grows.

* * *

Submission Deadlines

Advertising material is due on the fifteenth of the month preceeding the month of publication. (February 15th for the April issue). No exceptions will be made.

Other material is due on or before the first Thursday of the month preceeding the month of publication (February 3rd for the March issue). Articles which are not month-specific may be submitted at any time. Please, avoid the deadline rush; contribute early.

These deadlines may be moved up so watch this column for changes in the policy.

* * *

Back Issues -- Reprints

Reprints of back issues may be ordered. We for ask at least $1.50 per issue to cover reprint and mailing costs. Additional donations will be gratefully accepted.

Mark envelope "BACK ISSUE REQUEST". Please send it to P. O. Box 3051, Daly City, CA, 94015. Orders are shipped once a week. Orders will be shipped within a week of receipt of the order.

* * *

Library Copies

FOG members may purchase copies of the library disks from FOG if the copies cannot be obtained thorough their local chapter. Individual disks are $5.00 each. Bulk orders or 10 or more disks earn a discount of $1.00 per disk. Return handling charges are $5.00 per order or address. Orders will be shipped within a week of receipt of the order.

Authorized chapters may participate in a monthly update service. Only the librarian of an authorized chapter may make arrangements to participate in this plan. Contact Gale Rhoades at P. O. Box 3051, Daly City, CA, 94015 (phone 415-756-0821) for further details.

Jim Woolley has been adding approximately 10 disks per month to the library. He issues the new disks on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Santa Clara FOG meetings. Shipments to participants in the monthly update service will be made the following week.

* * *

Chapter Rebates

Rebates of 25% of the base membership rate ($24.00) will be made to authorizied chapters on behalf of eligible members. To be eligible for the rebate, the name of the chapter MUST be on the membership from (or check) when the yearly dues (new or renewal) are paid.

No rebates will be made until the chapter is formally approved by the Board of Trustees.

Application for chapter status must be made in writing and must be accomanied by a list of the officers (at least three) and a signed copy of the chapter bylaws.

It is not necessary that a chapter be authorized when the member pays the yearly dues and specifies chapter affiliation for that member to be eligible for the rebate.

Rebates will be paid within two weeks of the Board meeting at which the chapter receives its charter. Subsequent payments will be made on a quarterly basis. Refer all questions about rebates to Gale Rhoades at P. O. Box 3051, Daly City, CA, 94015.

* * *

Change of Address

To request a change of address, send the label from a recent FOGHORN together with the new address either in an envelope mark "CHANGE OF ADDRESS" or on a Postal Change of Address Card to P. O. Box 11683-A, Palo Alto, CA, 94306. Please allow at least 30 days for a change of address to be effective.

FROM THE FOG

Response to Frustration & an Apology!

by Frank Morton

Dear Potential FOG member,

This is in response to your letter of 28 Oct 82, a copy of which is included in this newsletter. (see LETTERS... David) By now you should have received a complementary issue of the November FOGHORN, although it was much later than we desired. I have chosen your letter to answer publicly because it was so well written, and because it literally exudes the frustration that you and many others feel in trying to get some help in obtaining information regarding the Osborne Computer. We at FOG feel a similar frustration in our human limitations of being unable to provide instantaneous response and instant knowledge to all those who seek it.

The "rarified fraternity" composed of a "tiny, select group of cloistered eccentrics" known as FOG started out as a local group of about 18 Osborne owners who banded together in an attempt to learn, through sharing of information, anything we could to help us better use our machines. The local dealer personnel were helpful, but the machine was new to them also. Osborne Computer Corporation was busy trying to keep up with the demand for the machine and didn't want to talk to anyone but their customers, the Dealers (although I must confess, being close to the Factory has helped to get some very informative guest speakers from OCC). Fortunately, we found an excellent location for our meetings and have received some very good contributions to our newsletter. Then it began...

Thom Hogan included a reference to our group in his notes about WordStar modifications in a Dealers' Bulletin, complete with my home phone number. Those notes became part of the new improved OSBORNE 1 User's Reference Guide (manual). The phone started ringing and in no time my family rebelled from their unwanted chore as FOG switchboard. I put in an answering device and got a new (secret?) phone line for the family.

At first I tried answering all the calls, and I started working Saturdays at the local computer store to pay for my escalating phone bill (in all honesty, there were additional benefits). To this day I have not accepted any reimbursment for my FOG time, phone, or auto expenses because I felt that money would be better expended improving the quality of the FOGHORN and other FOG services.

With the exception of Gale, our one paid, full-time but temporary, employee, none of the FOG officers or members of the Board have been compensated for their time or efforts, including our Lawyer and our CPA, who have been donating their professional services. This is a totally volunteer effort (originally local in concept) with no financial support from anywhere, particularly the Osborne Computer Corporation.

With good intentions, we have accepted memberships from out of the area for people who are content to get the FOGHORN and what access we can provide to the diskette library for the membership fee of $24/yr. US and $30 elsewhere. A major portion of Gale's time has been spent copying, and organizing the copying of, the diskette library for requesting members who are far from a copy of the library and are willing to make it available to other members within the same area.

My sound of eagerness to help was sincere. My experience and planning did not foresee or take into account the exponential growth of interest in FOG. I soon found it was becoming more and more difficult to return calls east of Denver because it is virtually impossible for me to call on FOG business from my Aerospace job and by the time I have had dinner, taken messages, etc. it is far too late to call back East. I could get up at 4 or 5 a.m. to call back there, but with my meetings and other FOG business I seldom get to bed before 1 or 2 a.m.

I left the message I would return calls COLLECT, but that did not slow down the requests at all. So now my message does not promise to return the call. That frustrates me, but until I become independently wealthy or have enough financial support to leave my other two jobs I can only do my best to respond to organizers of FOG chapters and not make any rash promises in my message.

Meanwhile, FOG assisted in the start-up of the OCC magazine, the Portable Companion, by authorizing reprints of better articles from past issues of the FOGHORN. We were happy to support OCC (the exposure was helpful) but some of the articles contained phone numbers originally intended for "local" reference and assistance. The result is that other FOG members have been pelted with phone calls from everywhere, some at VERY unreasonable hours of the night.

FOG has funded a phone line and answering device for Gale; the traffic got so heavy that her phone was permanently busy, and she was getting practically no FOG membership or newsletter business done.

We are receiving several hundred pieces of mail a week. I pick it up at my P. O. Box, open and read it (to keep in touch with what is happening) sort and mark it, then transfer it to Gale. In most cases, if it is not an application for membership, the letter can be answered by sending a reprint of the FOGHORN with the answer or by sending a sample issue of the FOGHORN with an application blank. Doing just that, and keeping the FOGHORN plus local meetings going takes a lot of (unpaid) time and energy! Unfortunately, many members assume that we are supported by OCC, or are at least on salary at the Digital Deli. Neither of these are true.

Our concept of a solution to the problem of wanting to help the maximum number of users without succumbing to total burnout, or one of the many bouts of flu etc. that we have had as a result of long nights and a lot of contact with many people, is to assist in the formation of Local FOG Chapters wherever more than a dozen FOG members congregate; i.e. we want to help all of you to form your own local groups to help yourself, in the manner we have been doing here in "Silicon Valley". To this end we have formed a Non-Profit Corporation, the First Osborne Group (with a non-profit tax-exempt status so we can accept tax deductable donations).

Because of our Silicon Valley location, liaison relationship with OCC, and the excellant submissions to the FOGHORN, we believe that the newsletter would be of benefit to members everywhere. Since the membership dues is the major acceptable form of fund-raising for the corporation, we need the continued support of our members to fund these activities. Until we are able to acquire donations from computer industry corporations or find other forms of non-profit type income, we cannot continue to provide services to computer users everywhere without your help and membership.

We cannot do it all ourselves from here in the Bay Area of San Francisco! In order for it to work, each area needs people who are willing to expend some effort to organise the local chapter activities.

We can offer experience, technical advice, and a central location for collection of information as well as submissions to the diskette library. We are willing to HELP, but we cannot do all the work on the local level all over the world! Incidentally, much self-help on a personal level can be gained by 1) reading your OCC Users' Manual (where do you think we get most of our answers?), and 2) reading past issues of the FOGHORN!

When all is working as planned, we envision a network of local FOG chapters, whose members have the benefits of per-

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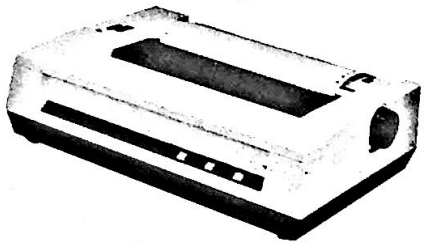

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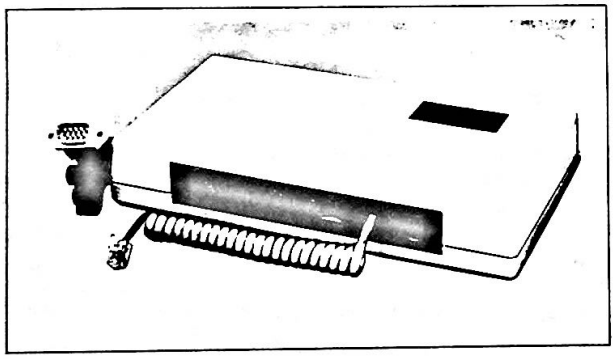

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sonal one-on-one contact, while at the same time sharing the to the joint experiences of all other members of the FOG Corporation. All members of this FOG Corporation have the right to vote at the annual meeting to elect a corporate Board of Trustees, receive the benefits of the centralized publications and the diskette library and will benefit from the dissemination of information. If all of this works as we intend and if I had received your call a year from now, I could have simply referred your request to a local group with a much quicker and, hopefully, more acceptable response.

I hope that by now I have answered most of your requests (demands?), except possibly that for the technical information regarding the optimum implementation of WordStar for your C-Itoh ProWriter 8510AP.

Past issues of the FOGHORN have shown how to implement for other printers. They may help you to figure a similar implementation for your printer. We would welcome the solution as an article for the newsletter. I feel we should have a Special Interest Group (SIG) related to printer implementation for the Osborne 1 and would appreciate a list of volunteers who could help newcomers with their printer hook-up problems. I will start off the List by volunteering as the Epson MX80F/T contact.

In conclusion, I would like to apologize for our slowness in response. I hope my explanation of our activities will help you to understand our frustrations, and I appreciate your letter prompting me to discuss some topics that needed to be expressed. I don't like to stand on my soap box any more than necessary, but a few well placed barbs will help get me up there on occasion.

[re: WordStar/C. Itoh 8510A; see Jim Woolley's answer to letters in Tips for Tyros, this issue... David]

* * *

Who Stole the FOGHORNs?

by Gale Rhoades

I am sure that there is not a single member of FOG who has not worried about the lateness of their newsletter in the last three months. I hope it will make you feel a little better that not a single one of you has been more frustated than we here at FOG have been. I am sure that by now the long overdue (and very poor) December issue has reached you. Please accept our sincere thanks for you patience and understanding.

While I will not go into all the details of the problems encountered, I will give you a brief summary.

A major problem has been the fact that there are only seven days in a week and only 24 hours in a day. Trying to hold down a full-time job and keep the FOG stuff up to date was fine when there were only a few hundred of us. Membership is now over 3000 and growing at an enormous rate! A crisis was reached in mid-November with the greatly increased size of the November FOGHORN. Every step of the production was hindered by accidents, not enough time, and supply problems.

When I finally had the 3500 copies assembled, addressed and bundled for the Post Office, more trouble appeared. The Post Office informed me that they could no longer accept the newsletters bundled with rubberbands. They had to be rebundled with string. More delay.

Finally, in the second week of December, the November issue was in the mail. By this time, December's issue was already two weeks behind schedule! To make matters worse, I had to take some time out to make a living. The decision was made to send out a very short issue for December and concentrate on January's.

On December 29th, the Board of Trustees decided to pay me to work full time for FOG for a couple of months so that I could try and straighten out some of the confusion. Then real disaster struck.

I have said for months that anyone running their computer when it is unattended and unsupported by an uninterruptable power supply was asking for trouble. This especially applied to those who were running hard disks.

I apparently have proven the wisdom of that advice. During the heavy storms we had here during the holidays, I had my system running, preparing renwal notices and the address labels for the December mailing.

While the details of how are not certain, the results are. The entire database was corrupted. This included the single-method backup that I employed at that time. All membership records had to be completely retyped. Fortunately, we had fairly extensive hardcopy backup from which to work.

I am delighted to say that after nearly 1500 hours of typing, the records are restored and backed up three different ways. Should disaster ever strike again, a maximum of five hours will be required to reconstruct everything.

Now we can proceed with the future. February FOGHORN will follow this issue by about three weeks. March should be mailed by March 1st.

Renewals will be printed and mailed during this same time. Renewal notices will be mailed to everyone who joined between October, 1981 and April, 1982. For those who have already paid their renewals, the notice will only be a survey form we are requesting from all members so that we can keep member information up to date. Renewals must be paid by the end of March or else you will be dropped from the list.

I have been promised membership cards early in February. As soon as these come in, they will be printed and mailed. In the meantime, the address label on your FOGHORNs will serve as identification. Membership number and expiration date are on the label. Please include this information in any correspondence.

Toward the end of February you will be receiving ballots and proxy forms for the annual election in March. Please fill out either the ballot or the proxy and return it in the envelope which will be provided. Only by participating in this election do you have a voice in how FOG is operated. The election will be March 18th (Friday night of the West Coast Computer Faire).

Speaking of the Faire, FOG will again have a booth at the Faire. I am looking for volunteers to put in two or thre hours helping to man the booth. The Faire is three days - Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I would like to have at lest 20 volunteers (for each day) who are willing to work about three hours each. Please send me a note to P. O. Box 3051, Daly City, CA, 94015 if you are available. Be sure to include the hours you can work. I will set up a schedule and notify you at least a week in advance of the Faire.

Well, this has ended up a much longer article than I wanted it to be. I hope that 1983 will be a better year for us all.

* * *

From the DOGHOUSE

by John Gaudio

It's here, it's here! That's right, double density Osbornes are now being sold, and people are signing up to have their machines upgraded to double density and 80 column screens. I haven't seen the 80 column screen yet but, I have been working with a double density system and it is beautiful.

There's now room to create one SUPERDISK, complete with with WordStar, SuperCalc, MBASIC, and a few of the more

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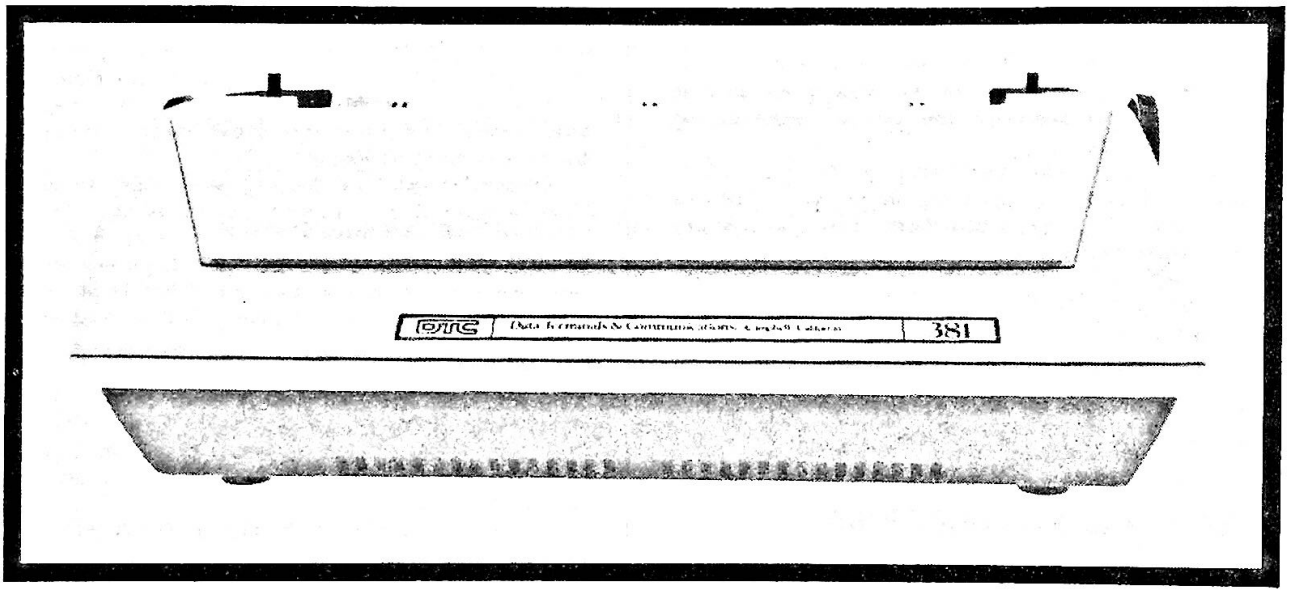

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popular CP/M programs. The new SETUP program allows you to temporarily change the arrow keys, printer type, the auto horizontal scroll option, and the like, without modifying the disk and without having to reset the machine and press return. This makes it easy to switch from WordStar to SuperCalc to MBASIC etc. You can even set up special function keys to run SETUP and change the system automatically.

For example, you can toggle the arrow keys between WordStar and CP/M with a special function key programmed as

SETUP<CR><CR>MF<CR>M

remembering of course that <CR> means press the return key. It only takes 5 seconds from the time the SFK is pressed for the changes to be made. In fact, you can now set up the system tracks for a particular task on the data disk to be used, so long as it's double density, and read that new system into memory quickly and easily. One warning though, don't try running SETUP from inside WordStar. Get out of WordStar, run the program from CP/M, and then run whatever other program you wish.

You'll notice that there are only 4 diskettes that come with the double density Osborne. The BASICs disk is pretty much the same, as is the SuperCalc disk. The WordStar disk has on it the INSTALL program which was previously kept on the CP/M Utilities disk, and the CP/M Systems and Utilities disks are now combined into one.

Single density units allow 90K of usable storage (2K are taken up in overhead on both single and double density units). The double density units allow 183K. It used to be that the smallest "non-empty" files required 2K, or about 2000 characters of disk space, even though they might hold only a single character.

Further, under single density, every time more file space was needed, an extra 2K had to be set aside. The double density format allows blocks of disk space as small as 1K to be assigned to a file. Thus, you can usually save more information using the same amount of disk space. With all this extra space, and the ability to create smaller files, you may run into a problem if you try to put too many files on a single diskette. The limit appears to be 58 files, regardless of their size and the ammount of room remaining. This is because the space assigned to handle the disk directory is limited and only so many names will fit. I don't expect this to cause much of a problem.

I'm convinced that the only way to make people back-up regularly is to make it easy for them. With double density there's enough room left on the WordStar system disk to temporarily backup WordStar files on the A drive, using the block write command ^KW, while using the B drive as your main data disk. Having this extra copy on a separate disk gives you one more safety line in case of trouble.

The extra space also comes in real handy when you want to combine the files from several diskettes. Just put each of those diskettes in the right drive, one at a time, and use the WordStar copy option to move files over to the WordStar systems disk. Once those files are there it's easy to copy them back over to a new data disk in drive B. Don't start getting into the habit of keeping files on that A drive. Use the extra room for temporary storage and keep the finished products on B.

Another thing, for the time being I'm still formatting and using most of my data disks in single density. I read and write my data disks using many different Osbornes, and not all of them have double density (yet). Until they're all upgraded, it's much easier to have my work saved in a single density format so that those diskettes can be read by any Osborne.

Of course the double density machines read and write single density formats just fine. In fact, you don't even have to tell the Osborne what kind of disk you've given it. It automatically recognizes it's own single and double density formats, the Xerox 820 format, the Cromemco format, and the format of the IBM PC. Additional formats are expected in the future. Osborne double density systems both read and write files in all those formats.

Some of the programs that come with the double density system have been changed. These include COPY, SYSGEN, MOVCPM and SETUP. SYSGEN and MOVCPM work just the way they used to, but the older versions won't work on the double density disks.

COPY will duplicate a single or double density Osborne format diskette. Again you don't have to be concerned with the double/single density question, it's taken care of automatically. The easiest way to copy files from a disk of one format to a disk of another format is through the program PIP. See page R-9 of the Osborne Users Guide for a review on using PIP. You can also use the COPY program to format diskettes. Here you'll be asked if it's to be formatted for single or double density use, and you'll find that the screen looks just a little bit different while the disks are being formatted. There's no way on the Osborne to format disks for IBM PC, XEROX 820, or Cromemco formats. That currently has to be done on the appropriate system.

The other differences you'll notice are in the SETUP program. We have lost 20 of the characters allocated for special function keys. I'd like to see that expanded rather than cut back, but everything has its price. There are now 76 characters available for each SFK program with double density. This compares with 96 characters under single density.

The only other loss is that of 1K from the TPA (that stands for Transient Program Area, and that's where we run our programs), but these losses are far outweighed by the gains. Additional features allow you to specify the device number of a Pet (IEEE-488) printer, and to put in a string of characters to initialize your printer. Another real handy feature allows you to read the current setup of the machine from memory, and store your changes directly into the memory without ever touching your diskettes.

It's this feature that makes it practical to put WordStar, SuperCalc, and MBASIC on a single diskette, so long as you put SETUP on that diskette as well. In this case you use SETUP to temporarily change such things as the arrow key assignments and the auto scroll option for the program you wish to run. Then you run it.

The only problems I've had were minor ones. I did run into a few BDOS errors, but none of them ever cost me more than five minutes. I've also noticed some minor problems with the reset button at times, but these too will pass. I strongly recommend double density to everyone. The added disk space makes DBASE II an even more valuable package than it's been so far, and paves the way for the release of true accounting software that will run with a reasonable number of diskettes. I know that this will make even more software available, and practical for use on the Osborne 1. April came a little bit late this year, but it's been well worth the wait.

Here's the way I set up my SUPERDISK:

Extended Directory Version 3.5

AUTOST	.COM	2k	SC	.COM	24k	WSMSGS	.OVR	26k
COPY	.COM	5k	SC	.HLP	9k	WSOVLY1	.OVR	27k
MBASIC	.COM	24k	SETUP	.COM	5k	XDIR	.COM	3k
MERGPRIN	.OVR	8k	SYSGEN	.COM	2k			
PIP	.COM	8k	WS	.COM	14k			

Disk A: 1K blocks
Size= 185K, 13 Files, Used= 159K, Space= 26K

P.S. Special thanks go to Toni Grant of the Denver Osborne Group for helping me to prepare this article.

* * *

E. T. Comes To FOG (With a Little Help From FANCY FONT)

by Bill Franklin

As you can see, FOGHORN has a new look, thanks to E.T. (Epson Typesetting)! What allows the Epson printer to do this attractive printing is a software package called Fancy Font. Fancy Font allows you to fully exploit the graphic capabilities of your Epson printer.

With Fancy Font you can print graphics and logos, and typeset and print documents. It provides the ability to achieve fairly high quality print in your choice of type styles. Fancy Font comes with 33 predefined fonts (such as Roman, Old English, and Sans Serif) in various sizes and styles (italics, bold, etc.). You can also design your own fonts. With Fancy Font you can create font sets from as small as is legible to about one inch high. Fancy Font achieves its high quality printing by passing the print head up to six times over each character and moving the paper as little as 1/216th of an inch.

Fancy Font consists of three programs. The main one is the printing program (Pfont). The second one (Cfont) allows you to quickly create new fonts from the character database provided. The third program (Efont) allows you to edit existing fonts or create logos, special characters, or any font style not included in the character database. A word processing program is used initially for entering and arranging your text. Wordstar can be used for this.

The printing program (Pfont) can be viewed as a sophisticated printing system with moderate text formatting capabilities. With Pfont you can mix font types, center headlines, justify and proportionally space text, and change margins.

Pfont has three methods of interaction. You may elect to use any one or a combination of methods:

1) Interactive- parameters are specified one at a time

2) Command Line- all parameters are specified on the CP/M command line

3) Parameter Input File- input is obtained from a prepared file containing parameters.

In the interactive mode, Pfont helps you along the way, and makes it easy to enter and change parameters. Frequent and experienced users would want to learn the use of parameter input files.

The create-a-font program (Cfont) and edit-a-font program (Efont) are for the advanced Fancy Font user. While all the Fancy Font programs provide the user with on-line help as needed, Cfont and Efont do it to a lesser degree than Pfont.

Cfont allows you to decide what size you wish the font set to be (up to the one inch maximum). Cfont uses the character database provided to quickly generate a new font set. This character database is called the Hershey database. It was created by Allan Hershey for the National Bureau of Standards. Softcraft, the creators of Fancy Font, adapted this database for use by Fancy Font. The Hershey database contains many interesting type styles and symbols, such as Roman, Sans Serif, Script, Greek, Cyrillic, Old English, German Gothic, and others. One of the interesting font sets includes all of the symbols used in music notation. Using this font set would allow you to create sheets of printed music! The Hershey database is large; it fills approximately 1 1/4 disks. This means that single density Osborne users will sometimes need to be swapping disks.

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Using Wordstar, you can also create new characters or logos. This is done on the screen, drawing your design with asterisks. Efont then allows you to convert this asterisk image into a font character. You can get around the one inch character size limitation by combining multiple characters to form larger logos or designs. Efont can also be used to modify existing font sets, with a little help from word processing software. For creating the larger logos, you might want to use a modified version of Wordstar, such as the version which appeared in the article "Smoother Scrolling" in the first issue of The Portable Companion. (It also is in the FOG library). This version allows you to have lines of 120 characters wide, which is useful for editing large characters.

One problem I've had with Efont is that it must reside on the same disk as the character files you are working with. This means a lot of disk switching for single density users. I'm still hoping someday I'll find a way around that problem.

In the Osborne format, Fancy Font comes with six single density diskettes. Those who have double density Osbornes will certainly have an easier time using Fancy Font; however single density Osborne owners will still enjoy using it. Familiarity will increase your facility with this program. After using it a few times, I became very comfortable with it. The more I use it, the more possibilities I think of.

The documentation is good, especially as a reference guide. There is a short tutorial at the beginning explaining the basics of using Fancy Font. As much as I enjoy using Fancy Font, there are a couple of ways I'd like to see it improved. One would be to include a list of error messages in the documentation, and what to do to get going again. Presently, when Pfont is through printing a document, it returns to CP/M. The other improvement would be to have it remain in Pfont. I'd rather tell it when I am finished, instead of it assuming I am finished.

All in all, I've thoroughly enjoyed using Fancy Font. I've found it easy to use, and the results are beautiful. For those wanting inexpensive typesetting and graphics capability, Fancy Font is unbeatable!

* * *

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Morton:--

What I would really like to do is review my history as a computer hobbiest. That would, however, take too much space. Let it be said: I moved up from TRS-80 to Osborne 1 for varied reasons, also too many to spell out here. What I will say is this. Either as a kind, gentle, patient man I do not belong with that rarified fraternity which promotes, sells, promises services, or uses home conputers. Or, I have had the singular misfortune of trying to deal with a tiny, select group of cloistered eccentrics.

Take yourself, for instance. You have a pleasant voice; I've listened to it twice -- at my expense. Both times I have invited you to return that call -- again at my expense. From the eagerness you convey on the recording, I have imagined a prompt response, a warm description of FOG, and a hearty willingness to share. Taking your silence as your kind appreciation for a preacher's pocket book, I began to watch the mails: slash-zero. The suspense which had been just killing now stretches into torture. There are, I'm sure, good and sufficient reasons for the delay. 1) You are rarely near the phone; is it Mars or Venus? 2) I don't hardly speak such super good English. Except -- given my work -- I have listened to recordings of my voice; it is reasonable, and expresses a fairly common American dialect.

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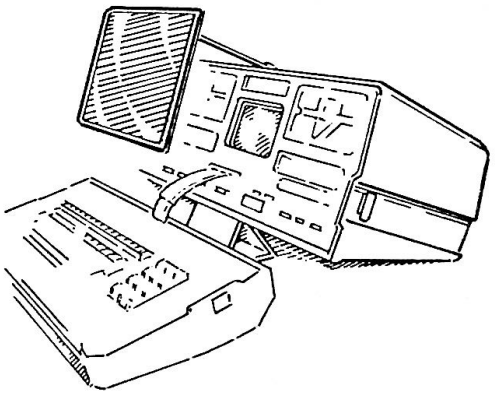

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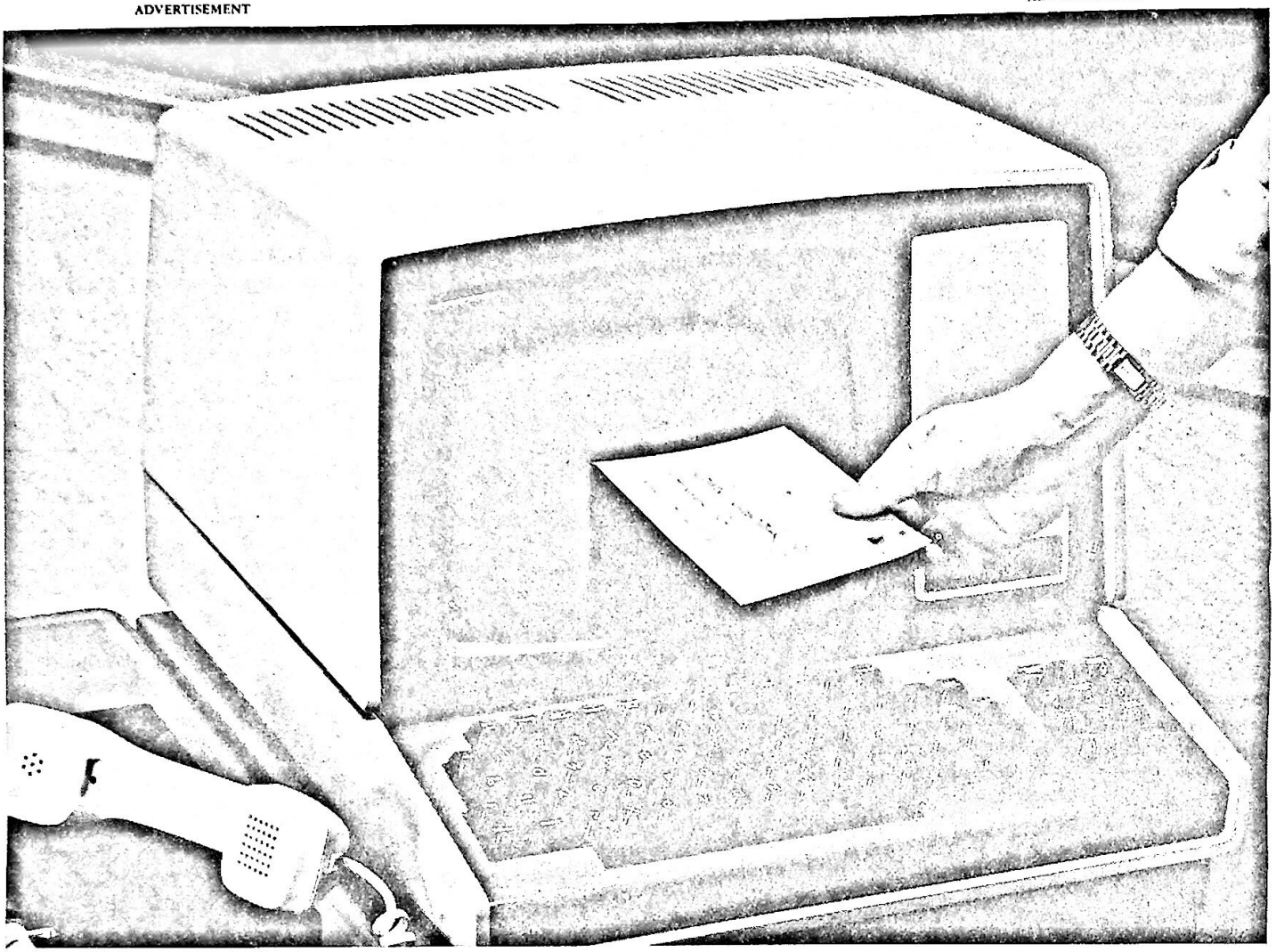

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Perhaps it's all a conspiracy. I own the only Osborne 1 in the whole galaxy. The local vendor cannot help me or obtain help, so it is claimed. Your voice fades off in the distance. Baldwin, at Hayward, CA, is never in his office. The promised user's journal, PORTABLE COMPANION, never arrives. Thank God I still have the '80. Radio Shack may be fat and decadent, but she's still available.

IF you are still out there,
IF you are at all interested,
IF you want to EARN SOME MONEY,
IF you want to restore the good name of Osborne,
IF you want to keep me from using the sort of language I'm paid to prevent others from using...

You will -- PLEASE -- do any or all of the following three (3) things:

1) Send a sample newsletter;
2) Provide details on joining your user's group;
3) Provide any documentation for modifying WS so that its full potential can be realized on my C-Itoh, ProWriter, 8510AP.

Blessings -- I think,

(A Pastor from)
Fairview, PA

* * *

Help Install My Diablo 630

I am interested in learning from fellow members how to install my Diablo 630 printer in order to maximize its features. I often use a Xerox 820 with the 630 printer at work, and know what it can do but, I can't get past the printer menu in the Osborne section dealing with modifying WordStar. I hope someone can share their expertise with me.

Nancy K. Gutbrodt
Fairport, NY

* * *

OCC1 and Smith-Corona TP-1 Printer

The care and feeding of printers seems to be Topic A (or B) for computer owners. OCC has made life a bit more difficult with some unconventional wiring setups for both IEEE (parallel) and RS232 (serial) ports. For neophyte OCC1 owners, like me, startup and operations also are made difficult by confusing writeups in manuals. This letter includes a few hard-earned tips on operating the Smith-Corona TP-1 printer.

My TP-1 is set up for parallel operation. It works but I am not certain that the wiring is precisely correct. The official recommendations for parallel and serial wiring are noted in the literature from Smith-Corona. The major unanswered question is the necessity for wiring +5V to pin 18 of the TP-1 36 pin IEEE connector. This can be achieved by connecting a wire from the top of R106 on the TP-1 Parallel Interface Board to pin 1 on the interface and on to pin 18 on the cable connector. This is stated by S-C as "may need to". I have not done this but would like to hear about experiences of other OCC1 owners.

INSTALLation of the TP-1 on WordStar is straight forward if you assume that TP-1 is a Centronics printer. Most of the OCC factory settings seem to apply. TP-1 is a fairly slow printer and needs some pauses to perform some of its functions. These can be provided by inputting a few nulls in advance to next line (PSCRLF), return carriage (PSCR) and backspace (PBACKS). For example, I added two nulls to PSCRLF by entering 04 0D 00 00 0A. It is easy to experiment using a copy of WordStar in the INSTALL program. The USR1-4 labels can be employed to use the continuous underlining feature of the TP-1 (by INSTALLing 01 19) or to print 1/2, 1/4 and cent sign (by INSTALLing 01 "HEX symbol" or 02 1B "HEX Symbol"). If you stop a printing program in the middle of a continuous underline it stays on forever (or until you turn off the printer); it also continues the underline from the edge of the paper if the underlined text continues to a second line.

Printing formats in WordStar are most conveniently handled by dot commands. Setting TP-1 printing left margin in CP/M can be quite easily achieved by turning on the printer, entering CTRL P to CP/M prompt and then entering CTRL Q, a couple of CTRL I (depending on how far you wish to tab), another CTRL Q and RETURN. A couple of peeps from TP-1 tells you the margin is set. There must be some other ways to do this but it is one convenient approach although it results in some paper waste due to printing of A's (from prompt) and Q's. The margin stays set until the printer is turned off.

If you occasionally need a subscript or superscript you may input this to the TP-1 artificially by inputting a CTRL PC (i.e.,stop print) before and after the sub/super text and moving (and returning) the TP-1 carriage one-half space manually. This works only mechanically and cannot be commanded by software. If you do a lot of sub/super work, get a different printer.

You also may need to get a different printer if you do much rough draft work, as I do, or if you want to print a lot of computer programs. TP-1 types fine looking letter quality letters and reports. With some limitations, continuous form paper can be used with the TP-1. I have found it necessary, however, to acquire a low cost and much faster dot matrix serial printer for everyday rough draft work, reserving the TP-1 for letter-quality work. Both printers can be permanently connected to the OCC1 and employed interchangeably by use of separately INSTALLed WordStar disks.

John V. Schmitz
Philadelphia, PA

* * *

(M)BASIC Problems

Recently, while making the first attempt at random access data files in MBASIC I ran across a particularly significant problem. How to do it. The documentation was extremely sparce on the full potential of R-A data file structure, form and style. I have tried to remedy the situation with a publication entitled DATA FILE PROGRAMMING IN BASIC, A SELF-TEACHING GUIDE by Finkel & Brown, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1981. It's well written and puts you into sequential and random data files quickly. It was written for Basic-80 and provides utility and application exercises. This and the Basic-80 reference manual which I thought was supplied with the "confuser" was not enough. The root of the problem is the specific structure necessary for running a program on drive A and storing the data in drive B. More specifically I cannot find an understandable documentation of command or statement structure which takes assigned program variable values from the program in drive A and allows the creation of R-A files on drive B, then returns to the program in drive A without disrupting memory and allowing continued execution.

The approach here is to set aside the current data for future use by another MBASIC program and some data file utility programs, go back to the main program and continue with the use of the same and additional variable values. I am particularly interested in achieving this as a subroutine or branch statements which nest part or all of the OPEN, FIELD, LSET, PUT and CLOSE statements then return or branches back to drive A. Simple problem, right? I've uncovered just about every error message in memory for data files attempting this. If anyone has a good idea or better yet, an actual answer to this problem I would greatly appreciate any help.

While about my futile search for truth and knowledge I did discover that not everyone recieved a copy of the Micro-

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soft version of the MBASIC documentation. This little publication has been invaluable to me because it contains some information that I don't see in the new OCC book. It has the standard grey with blue striped cover that other OCC sanctioned software has and maybe someone knows if it is available from Microsoft.

Some of the people I talked to recently didn't know about initialization of MBASIC to support more than 3 open data files and to exceed the default 128 byte maximum record size. The format of the command line for the MBASIC command is:

A>MBASIC [<filename>][/F:<number of files>][/S:<maximum record size>]

If you use the filename it proceeds as if you LOADed the file and typed RUN. The number of files entry sets the number of files that can be open at one time except for sequencial in the "O" mode. Some caution should be used when large programs are run with large numbers of large data files since this method allocates each file data block at 166 bytes of memory. The maximum record size is for R-A file above the default of 128 bytes. I've only tried 256 and I can't see where it says sizes greater than this are supported in this manner. The notes state that when the record size is set at 256, files up to 8 megabytes can be accessed. It appears that with CP/M 2.x and later, large random access files can be supported with a maximum logical record number of 32767. It doesn't clue you in to how but at least it says something. The notes also state that the number of files and maximum record size, as well as highest memory location, can be set in decimal, octal or hex. An initialization done in this manner would look something like this:

A>MBASIC DEVPLAN/F:7/S:&H100

(For more discussion on this subject see Bradley S. Albom's HELP column elsewhere in this issue... David)

I've placed this on a ^key function preceded by the SYSTEM command but the AUTOST.COM can be modified if you have more or less permanent initialization needs.

Aside from the little problem I'm having with disk demand if anyone is a city or urban planner interested in the development and review of MBASIC programs for residential and commercial projects with comparisons to general plan and zoning standards and fee generation, call me. I have one started with more on the way.

You can reach me at:

Michael W. Kaufman
P.O. Box 81
Suisun City, Ca. 94585
Work Phone (707)429-2900 except Mondays in AM
Home Phone (707)448-3398 eves & wkends except Tues PM

* * *

The Bells of OCC

As some of us know all too well, it's not always easy to get a call into Osborne. Well while visiting OCC I found myself near the telephone operator for about ten minutes, and was amazed at the way she never really stopped moving. Her console just kept on going with one call after another while she took mesages, and tracked people down all over the plant. I also talked to Bob Moody who told me that some of the phone lines coming into the building are often cut off by the phone company for maintenance, at which time the caller hears what sounds like a ringing phone, but the ring never gets through to the operator. Getting an outside line can be a real trick too, and even calling from one extension to another is difficult when the main switching equipment gets filled up.

The company has just been growing faster than their phone system can handle it. It's hoped that the problem will be pretty well cleared up with the move to the new building, so cross your fingers, and keep on trying.

John Gaudio
Denver, CO

* * *

Undocumated OSBORNE 1 – CP/M Feature

Try this in your spare time.
At the CP/M prompt, A>, type in the following:

?rof doog noitcnuf slht si tahW

Now, simultaneously hold down the Control Key and the Shift Key. With a third finger, press the ? Key and hold them all down. Watch the screen.

Dick Ezzard
Kensington, CA

* * *

TIPS FOR TYROS

Telecommunications with OCC1

by John V. Schmitz

Ownership of a computer provides an admission ticket to the Wonderful World of Telecommunications. At fairly nominal costs, OCC1 owners can participate. Initiation can be a little painful, as with most new endeavors, but the startup efforts are justified by the benefits. These cover the range of exchanging computer programs with friends, acquiring new freeware from bulletin boards, participating in popular database services (COMPUSERVE, THE SOURCE), conducting detailed searches of the technical literature (Lockheed's DIALOG) and sending text to phototypesetters for preparation of high quality reports.

To enjoy these marvelous benefits, an OCC1 owner needs only to acquire a modem, cable connection, software to run the modem and enough self-education to operate the system.

Modems come in a lot of flavors and prices. These can simply communicate or may supply additional services such as telephone answering or time keeping. I chose communications, initially starting with a borrowed and ancient DIGICOM (Data Products,Inc.) linked to OCC1 with an RS232 cable (pins 2,3,7 with 2 and 3 reversed). This works fine but requires acoustic coupling to the telephone. Similar modems are available at very low prices from dealers in used electronic equipment. If you prefer to use your RS232 port for a printer, as I do, you might consider permanently installing a modem on your OCC Modem Port. A new device, the SIGNALMAN MARK V, is being introduced by Anchor Automation (Van Nuys, CA) for this purpose. It is available for under $100 from mail order houses (e.g., A B Computer, Colmar, PA). This direct-connect modem comes with a very short cable terminating in an OCC Modem Port connector (needs an extension for convenience) and employs some of the electronics of your telephone handset. Convenience in permanent installation on your telephone requires use of extended telephone connector lines which are available from your local telephone company. If the Modem Port on your OCC1 is activated the MARK V works well. My OCC1, with serial number over 11,000, has an active port. Some of the earlier ones do not.

(Shortly after this article was written the Osborne Computer Corporation released the Osborne modem with COMM-PAC, package deal, for $265, so you have another choice to consider ... David)

Modem software also ranges in price. A plain vanilla version is MICROLINK. This also can be satisfactorily put on stream after you work your way through the confusing manual. It can be obtained at a cost of $89 from OCC dealers. It will not operate XMODEM systems on RCPM bulletin boards. A better and less expensive ($60) software package, called DTRANS, is being introduced by Automat Design Associates (1570 Arran Way, Dresher, PA 19025). This performs all of the functions of MICROLINK, operates XMODEM systems (like MODEM7) and also automates features of sophisicated modems like the Hayes SMART MODEM. (MODEM7 is available from the FOG disk library, -FOG/UTL.001. Read MODEM7.DOC and run MDM70S. Hayes Smartmodem users, check your RCPM bulletin boards for SMODEM36 configured for the Osborne ... David)

Most telecommunications operations require a learning period; bulletin boards are great for this and cost only the price of a telephone call. Phototypesetting requires some research to establish proper conditions. My phototypesetter uses an ATEX system. This has difficulty in digesting all of the special electronic symbols of WORDSTAR. These can be purged, however, by transferring your edited copy through PIP with parameters [FZ]. I have had excellent typesetting service from Packard Press (Philadelphia, PA; Marty Farlow, 215-236-2000).

* * *

Response to November Letters

by Jim Woolley

This is an attempt to respond to some questions raised in the Letters column of November's FOGHORN (Vol.2, No.2, pp.7-11). I realize that these letters were probably first written in September or October and this response will probably not be published until February or March, but perhaps some of you will be interested in the points discussed.

Dal Allan of Saratoga, CA, asked about the strange appearance of a file named ????????.DIR on his disks. When he finally figured out how to read them (using SWEEP from the library), he found they held the partial contents of old XDIRs. There is a feature of the XDIR utility which was described to me by Gale Rhoades, Secretary of FOG. I never saw it documented until Scott Rainey's article in the Dec/Jan issue of Portable Companion, pages 67 thru 71. (Scott is editor of the Portland Osborne Business User's Group (OSBUG).) If you execute XDIR by entering a command of the form

XDIR filespec filename

where filespec is a file description possibly containing wildcards (* or ?), then whatever XDIR displays on the screen will also be stored in a file named filename.DIR. For example, the command

XDIR *.* FULL

will display a directory of all files on the disk and store a duplicate of the display in the file FULL.DIR. Similarly,

XDIR *.COM COMMAND

will store a directory of .COM files in a file named COMMAND.DIR. It turns out that if the filename following filespec is just *, then the directory display will be stored in a file named ????????.DIR. For example, if Dal requested a directory of all files using *.* for filespec but typed a space instead of a period between the two *'s, as in

XDIR * *

then the result would be stored in the file ????????.DIR.

Robert Bollini of Halifax, Nova Scotia, complains that the WordStar Find and Replace wildcard option ^P^A (used to match ANY single character) does not function properly for him. That may be because the Osborne 1 Users Reference Guide on page R-34 incorrectly describes its use. If used, the control characters ^A, ^S, ^O, or ^N must be placed in the FIND? string (response to the FIND? question), not in response to the OPTIONS? question. In addition, ^N may be part of the REPLACE WITH? string. These special control characters should be entered by preceding each with ^P. (Note that the carat symbol ^ is used to represent the <CTRL> key.) I can confirm to Robert that my WordStar will execute the example

FIND? X^A^AX

to find the next occurrence of two X's separated by any two characters, such as XABX, XY+X, X=-X, etc.

Robert also said that he could not use the PIP options [Sstring^Z] or [Qstring^Z]. The first option specifies that PIP is to start copying with "string"; the second tells PIP to quit after "string" has been copied. The Osborne 1 Users Reference Guide, page R-11, neglects to mention that if the option is typed on the PIP command line, as in

PIP con:=filename.typ[Sstart here^Z]

then the string will be converted to upper-case; that is, PIP would search for the string START HERE. The same conversion to upper-case occurs with the Q option. To avoid case conversion, simply type PIP on the command line, followed by <RETURN>. PIP will respond with the prompt *. A PIP function entered following the * prompt will not be converted to upper-case. I can confirm to Robert that my version of PIP will correctly execute the S or Q option when they are not both used in the same function specification. If they are used together, then PIP performs correctly sometimes, but not always. For example,

A>PIP
*LST:=STORY.PRN[SOnce upon a^ZQhappily ever after^Z]

may or may not produce the expected results. I could not definitely correlate the failures, but they seemed to occur only when the S and Q strings appeared in the file on the same line.

Arthur Fore, Jr. of Tuscon, AZ, asked about modifying WordStar for the C. Itoh 8510A Prowriter printer. In the May issue of FOGHORN (Vol.1, No.8, pp.8-9) I described how to patch WordStar for the NEC 8023A. The same description is applicable to the 8510A Prowriter. Unfortunately, Arthur wishes to use the Greek character set, and my article did not address that point. C I Software advertised on page 22 of the November FOGHORN a WordStar modification for the Prowriter, but they did not mention use of Greek letters either.

Allen Andrews of Dayton, OH, said he would be happy to join FOG if we have published modifications to WordStar for the C. Itoh F-10, 40 cps daisywheel printer. The Portable Companion beat us to it (Dec/Jan, pp.13-14). But we would still be pleased to have Allen join.

Dwight Baker of So. Dartmouth, MA, asked about the /F:, /M:, and /S: parameters which may be included on the MBASIC command line. By coincidence, Martin Murray of Dallas, TX, asked the Portable Companion editor the same question; the answer appears on page 10 of the Dec/Jan issue. That answer also addresses Bradley S. Albom who complained in the Novembe

FOGHORN Software Help column (pp.23-24) that MBASIC "Bugs" prevent opening more than 3 files or defining records longer than 128 bytes. The command

MBASIC /M:i/F:j/S:k

(where i, j, and k represent integer values recognized by MBASIC) specifies usable memory up to location i, up to j open files, and records up to k bytes in length.

Carey Vennema of New York, NY, asked how to use the "cents", "not equal to", and "British pounds sterling" symbols on 96 character printwheels. The Osborne 1 Users Reference Guide, page R-44, describes WordStar's phantom rubout and phantom space printer control characters, which are included for this purpose. They may or may not work with Carey's printer.

I apologize for not addressing every question that was raised, but perhaps this has been helpful to some readers.

* * *

More Help For November Letters

by T. C.

To Bradley S. Albon and Dwight Baker:

The information you are seeking regarding Microsoft Basic options was included in "Appendix D" the original Osborne documentation (probably the best published). The options are specified on the MBASIC command line and are as follows:

MBASIC <filename> /F:<files> /M:<memory> /S:<record size>

The "/F:" field specifies the maximum number of files which can be open at one time. The default value is three.

The "/M:" field sets the highest memory location that will be used by MBASIC. This is usually required to allow assembly language subroutines to reside in high memory. If ommitted, all available memory up to the FDOS is used.

The "/S:" option sets the maximum length of a record in a random access file. Default value is 128 bytes.

These numbers may be represented in decimal, hexidecimal (&H), or octal (&O) representation. To envoke MBASIC for use with random access records up to 180 bytes long, up to 5 files open at once, and reserve above hex C000 for assembley programs, type the following:

MBASIC /F:5 /M:&H0C00 /S:180

To Gary Webb.

To have WordStar come up with justification off, you need to patch address 398(hex) with a value of 0 (zero). This can be located using the INSTALL program at location "INITWF:+1" To initialize with hyphen-help off, change location "INITWF:+4" to 0. Again, these items were included in the initial release of documentation which was later "abridged" by Osborne.

To Bob Terrell:

Apparently you are using a printer which has a one line buffer (probably an Epson). When you use the printer like a typewriter, the characters sent are saved until the end of line (carriage return) is received.

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To Paul F. Swider.

It appears that you are trying to use PIP to exchange files and programs between the Osborne and another CP/M computer. Unfortunately, there is no way for the receiving computer to tell the sending computer to wait because it is writing part of the information to disk.

I strongly suggest you obtain a copy of MODEM-7 (or one of its derivatives) for both machines. This will allow error-free transmission of files in either direction, either over a short cable or over telephone lines (via modem).

To close out a .COM file, use the keyboard of the sending machine, i.e.:

PIP PUN:=FILE.COM[O],CON:

When the transfer has been completed, type a "Control Z" on the sending keyboard to close the file.

To Jim Dearth:

Your problem with the Radio Shack printer stems from not being able to turn off the automatic line feed manually. It must be turned off via software control every time it is powered up.

WordStar can be modified in either of two ways. Either the carriage return sequence can be redefined or the printer can be reconfigured by WordStar at the start of printing. An easier solution (and one which would allow your other listings to print properly, too) is to create a short program to reconfigure the printer for you. You might want to name this program AUTOST.COM, which would be executed every time a col start was performed. A short assembly listing for such a program is as follows:

```
        ORG     100H
BDOS    EQU     0005H       ;BDOS vector
ESC     EQU     001BH       ;escape code
PRSTR   EQU     9           ;print string
;
BOOT    EQU     0           ;warm boot vector
;                            funct'
        LXI     D,MESG      ;load message
;                            address
        MVI     C,PRSTR     ;set print
;                            string function
        CALL    BDOS        ;print it
;
        JMP     BOOT        ;warm boof
;
MESG    DB      ESC,15H,'$' ;TRS enable CR only
;
        END
```

* * *

ARTICLES

This column will appear in this location every month. This month there were no contributions for it so this reminder is appearing instead. These articles should be of general interest to all FOG members.

* * *

REVIEWS

OSBORNE-1 HI-RES GRAPHICS -- A Review of the Radio Shack CGP-115 Printer/Plotter

by LT Bob Scott, USN

Those of you who don't yet own a printer would have appreciated my predicament; needing to cut listings, but not being able to convince my spouse of the galatic consequences of not having that need fulfilled. So off I went in search for the ulimate cheap listing-cutter.

Serendipitously that search ended with the Radio Shack CGP-115 color printer/plotter, a device that has become a valuable part of my computer system.

Breifly, the CGP-115 is a four color plotter with continuous roll paper feed, automatic pen turret, and software selectable character sizing. Measuring only 8x8x3 inches, the unit will fit almost anywhere; coupled with it's internal paper feed this allows a great deal of flexibility in both permanent installations and for portable use. Interfacing (parallel) is by either a standard Centronics/Osborne cable or (serial) via the RS-232 serial port. The later can be somewhat tricky as the plotter operates at fixed baud rate of 600 and uses a four pin DIN jack (a la CB radio mike) for serial input. A four station DIP switch on the rear of the plotter selects the following options:

INTERFACE: (Parallel or serial)
LINEFEED : (LF or LF/CR)
DENSITY : (40 or 80 characters per line)
DATA : (7-Bit ASCII or Special Characters)

To use the plotter with the Osborne I the first thing you will need (besides the meager purchase price of $250) is an Osborne to Centronics connector. These are available from several firms or you can wire your own. Incidentally, the data provided in the Osborne manual on how to do this is not entirely correct. The correct pin-to-pin connections for use with a Radio Shack printer are as follows (this should also work with most other Centronics compatible printers... I think):

Osborne	Centronics
1	2
2	6
3	3
4	7
5	4
6	8
7	5
8	9
10	30
11	1
12	19
15	11
17	14 (Apparently not necessary for Epson)
18	21
19	13
20	20

(Refer to page 283 of Osborne 1 User's Reference Guide, Rev. 2/22/82, for further information)

Once you've bought, or built, your cable, select the appropriate options on the DIP switch (ASCII, Parallel, LF) and configure your disks for parallel Centronics output using

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FOR SOME SYSTEMS THE SCREEN SHOWS:

$$\Lambda = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\Gamma_{\alpha\beta} + \Omega_{\gamma\nu}\right] \qquad \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3}a = a3^{\frac{1}{2}}/2 \qquad \tau = \int_a^b dx X_{nn'}\phi(x)\frac{\partial\Psi}{\partial x}$$

CURRENTLY ON THE OSBORNE

Enter ^Ea, the screen shows a, and α is printed. OSBORNE is not including user-definable screen characters in the 80-column upgrade. Therefore we will prepare a special character generation ROM which will replace the 32 graphics symbols with Greek/Math characters.

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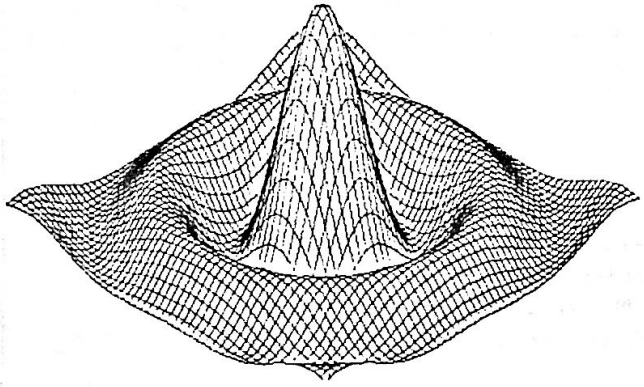
the SETUP program found on the CP/M System disk. So much for the easy stuff.

The versitility of this printer lies in it's "smart" controller. This controller operates in two modes; Graphics and Text. In text mode the printer behaves like a common lineprinter, printing text at the size specified by the DIP switch at power-up. Although not particularly amazing in this mode, the printer will underline, super and subscript, and do reverse linefeeds.

Toggling to the graphics mode (via an ASCII Code 18) is where the fun starts. In this mode your Osborne has the ability to draw and plot like a much more expensive system. In fact the graphics commands exceed those of the Tektronix 4051 Graphics microcomputer which costs, well, a lot. Typically accessed from BASIC, there are no obscure assembly level routines to delve into or call. While in the graphics mode the plotter interperts everything sent to it as a command. Hence if we toggle to graphics (LPRINT CHR$(18)) and wish to send the pen to the "home" position we merely send the character "H" via an LPRINT "H" statement in our Basic program. Similar one letter commands allow one to move, draw, select colors, etc. In the cases of "move" and "draw" these can be either relative to the last pen position, or relative to a fixed origin. A typical statement to command the pen to draw a line from it's current position to the point -30,150 would be expressed in BASIC as LPRINT "D-30,150". Values may be added to the print statement to continue the drawing.



```
370 R=SQR(XX*XX+ZZ*ZZ)
375 DR=R/KI
380     YJ=SIN(DR)/DR*AC*80*H
```

As you may have already surmised, since we are merely sending a print stream to the plotter, plotting to locations specified by variables in a program is just as easy. For instance, to move to a position given by varibles "XPOS" and "YPOS" the command would be expressed as:

LPRINT "M";XPOS;YPOS

The "M" is the move command and the ASCII values of XPOS and YPOS output by the BASIC LPRINT statement will be interperted by the plotter as the remainder of it's command string.. ..easy, eh? The BASIC program that was used to draw the graph that is reproduced here is only about 60 lines long, and was designed to be flexible enough to produce other plots by changing subroutines. The "smart" features of the plotter made it easy for even a hack programmer like me to pull off.

Additionally, while in Graphics mode, it is not only possible to print text, it can be done in character sizes ranging from a mere .062 inch to three full inches and you may specify rotations of 90, 180 (yep, upside down) and 270 degrees. These rotations are useful for both labeling graphic outputs and (using the larger character sizes) printing banners.

Specifications include a horizontal plotting range of 3.8 inches and a vertical range limited only the length of your paper roll. Plotting speed varies from two inches per second (horizontal) to four inches per second (vertical). Plotting accuracy is within .2mm. For those interested in portable applications, the printer weighs under two pounds (without AC adapter). Although not mentioned in the scanty manual provided, battery operation would seem to be a straight forward affair for the hobbyist as the printer runs off 9.8 volts DC, supplied by the AC adapter. Internal mechanisms seem rugged and well constructed; maintainance by the user is limited to pen and paper changes, both of which take only a few seconds. In operation the printer is remarkably quiet, a distinct advantage if your "computer center" is located near family sleeping quarters and you like to work late. Disadvantages? The paper is narrow (4.5 inches), and the water based ink printouts do not like to have things spilled on them, nor do they care to be handled with wet hands. Print speed is slow (12 cps) but is delightfully crisp even on the 80 column setting.

Initally purchased as a "throw-away" stopgap, my CGP-115 is going to be quite busy, I'm sure, even after I get the charged particle beam letter quality printer I'm saving up for.

Conclusion? Good Stuff!

* * *

HexPrintR

Reviewed by Thomas J. Mitchell

(San Diego Osborne Users' Group)

HexPrintR is a specialized program. Those who need it can hardly do without it, and there are a lot of you who need it. Stick through this rambling introduction and you'll see what I mean.

The program is designed to allow you to send special characters to your printer from within WordStar. We'll explore in a moment why this is both necessary and valuable. First the legal warnings. "WordStar" is a registered trademark of the MicroPro Corporation. "HexPrintR" is a trademark of C. I. Software, 1380 Garnet Ave., San Diego, CA 92109, (714) 483-6384. (See the ad in the Nov. '82 FOGHORN.) C. I. Software is Tom Vyse. This is his program, buy it from him; it's a good one.

WordStar was designed to process text files. It does a great job in that respect. But sometimes printers want non-printing (or non-text) "characters" sent to them for indicating special characters, for setting or clearing tabs, for printing graphics and the like. Here we have problems.

WordStar included the ^P command to allow you to send control characters to the printer. For technical reasons I don't understand, this isn't entirely satisfactory. (I suspect it has something to do with those interesting concepts, "parity" and "high-order bits.") If you have to know, ask Tom Vyse. Anyway, HexPrintR allows you to send ANY hex character to your printer.

Don't worry if this sounds technical. Tom's manual, as I'll discuss later, makes everything easy to understand. If you have a printer with special features and you can't turn them on with WordStar, get this program.

Before you use the program, you have to install it in one of your copies of WordStar. This is a long and complicated process but don't worry, the instruction manual takes you through it step by step. Once it's installed, it's simple

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to use. You type a Control-R before and after your special characters and HexPrintR handles the rest.

I could cop out and tell you simply that it's the best of its kind on the market. (It's the only one. The other similar program works differently.) But that's not necessary.

I went out and bought a fancy printer with lots of special codes. I followed Tom's instructions, I tried it, it worked. First time; no problems.

The instruction manual is both easy and fun to read. It's carefully laid out; it's well written (even if "hopefully" is incorrectly used on page 2); it's a good job.

The manual is also fun. His A Primer on Hex and ASCII is just plain good reading. (Rumor has it that this will be reprinted in OCC's the Portable Companion.)

P. S. You don't have to "glue three extra fingers onto each hand" to count in Hex, just use the knuckles of your fingers. Save your thumbs for counting in binary.

* * *

HELP

(or That's Not a BUG it's a Feature)

By Bradley S. Albom

Welcome again to the Foghorn Help column. This is the place to send any software problems you are having with your Osborne Personal Computer. To get your questions answered, send a letter of a page or less to:

Bradley S. Albom
c/o COMSOL
P.O. Box 206
Pt. Richmond, Calif 94807

If you prefer the phone, you can also leave me a message at (415)-234-8346. My answering machine is probably better suited to your quick solutions to the problems brought up here but you're also welcome to try and explain your problem to the machine. I can't guarantee a solution to your problem, but at least they'll get a public airing.

For our Wordstar users, I picked up a couple of tidbits at the October MOG meeting. The find and replace operation, ^QA, may seem particularly slow if it's doing a file-wide replace. This is because at each replacement, it stops to update the screen. After you've answered all of the find and replace questions, and its started to work, hit a ^S. This turns off the updates that are going to the screen. All the replaces take place in memory and when Wordstar's done, the screen wakes up again and displays the last replacement that was made.

Next, a creative solution to the infamous BDOS DISK FULL error. Normally when you do a ^KD or a ^KS, Wordstar will try to put the file you're working on back on the same disk it came from and it doesn't give you the option of putting it elsewhere. Well, instead of playing around trying to delete files on that disk when you find that it's full, try using the BLOCK WRITE TO FILE function, ^KW. Put the beginning block marker at the top of your file and the end of block marker at the bottom of your file. Now do a block write to file and Wordstar will prompt you for a filename. You can now save the entire file on a different drive. Naturally, this assumes you've had the foresight NOT to have write protected the other drive and have left enough room to store your file on it. This still DOES NOT allow you to remove the disk you're editting. Don't ever touch the drive with your original file until

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you're done editting it. Those of us who have tried this can vouch that it simply doesn't work. Needless to say, Wordstar is currently too smart to let you write over the file it's using.

The best approach I've seen to dealing with this type of problem as well as machine crashes and other accidents is the use of a journal file. During an edit session, everything you type from the keyboard would be copied in a journal file. When you exit normally, the journal file disappears. If something goes wrong, (eg. you mistakenly remove the disk you're working on) the journal file remains as a record of what you've done so that the editor can use it to get you back to where you were before. Maybe Wordstar's next version will include a feature like this. While I'm at it, maybe the next version will also have an undo function so that I can un-delete that line I just threw away by hitting the wrong key.

Now a response to last month's request for a way around the 3 file/128 byte maximum in MBASIC programs. Apparently, Osborne is now distributing more complete documentation. There are a number of initialization options you can use in conjunction with your initial MBASIC command.

A>MBASIC <filename> /F:## /M:## /S:##

<filename> - When present, MBASIC will look in filename for MBASIC code (it assumes a BAS filetype when none is present) which it then loads and runs.

/F:## - Specifies the maximum number of files which may be open at the same time. The default if you haven't guessed is 3. I think the maximum is 15.

/M:## - Tells MBASIC the highest address to make available for MBASIC code. This provision is so you can leave space at the top of memory for any Assembler subroutines you want to include in your MBASIC program. If you're to the point of using this feature you probably don't need any further

/S:## - Allows you to adjust the maximum record size used in any of your random access files. The deufult it 128 bytes.

In all of the options where you specify ##, you can use a decimal number, just be entering the number. You can also use octal notation by preceding the number with &O and you can use Hexadecimal number by preceding them with $H.

Before you rush off to try these options, let's stop and look at what they imply. All of these options affect the memory available for your MBASIC code. Suppose you specify /F:0. This will free up 918 bytes (306 bytes/file) and give you free space of 30441 instead of the default 29523. This may or may not be important, depending on the size of your application. You're more likely to run into trouble in the other direction. If you adjust the maximum record length option, remember that additional space is allocated for each and every potential file. That is, if you set /S:512, you're going to take (512-128) x 3 = 1152 bytes away from your useable program space. With the default /F:3, each of the three file's work areas must be sized for the new maximum record length. This certainly doesn't mean that you shouldn't use the option, but be sure you understand what you are doing when you do use it. Just a final note, a record length of 128 uses an initial 306 bytes, some of which is obviously overhead. Increases above this add only the number of bytes to this initial space. No additional overhead is incurred.

Before I move on, I want to cover some basic stuff for those of you just starting out. It's easy for those of us who've been programming a while to think that the different numbering systems (Octal/Hex) are obvious. The numbering system that you and I use in the real world to pay bills, etc., is the decimal system. It's based on multiples of 10. We have a 1's digit, a 10's digit, a 100's digit and so on. In Octal numbering, the basis is eight. So octal deals with the 1's

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place, the 8's place the 64's place, the 512's place and so on. For example, a decimal 8 is an octal 10. A decimal 10 is an octal 12. A decimal 64 is an octal 100. In hexadecimal, we work in multiples of 16. That is, a 1's place, a 16's place a 256's place and a 4096's place. To represent the decimal numbers 10 to 15 in Hex, we use the letters of the alphabet. That is, counting in Hex looks like:

0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,A,B,C,D,E,F,10....

The brute force way to convert numbers from one system to another is by successive division. Take the decimal 100. To go to Octal we start with the largest Octal place from above that will divide at least once into 100. In this case, it's the 64's place which goes into 100 once before we start getting fractions. Do the division and save the remainder, 36. Next is the eight's place which divides into 36 four times before we get fractions. Now we're down to the one's place which we don't need to divide since anything divided by 1 is the same. To put together the Octal number, we simply concatenate each of our results to get 144 octal = 100 decimal. Since I have a calculator to do these conversions for me, I'd appreciate any advice on quick an dirty conversion techniques from our experienced people.

My next item is a general observation about a number of developments that all seem to be coming together at the same time. Last month (October) I saw a presentation for the INGRES Relational Database available from Relational Technology for VAX and other minicomputers. INGRES is a true realtional database and I'll get into what that means in a minute. What was most interesting was that since INGRES is written in C, it also runs on the 68000 microprocessor. Another item is all the funny noise and predictions I've heard about the 68000 in 1983. 1983 is the year when this technolgy is going to take off, with the resultant drop in unit cost. Finally, I have heard more and more complaints from varying sources about the inadequacy of the accounting systems on the market today.

The first two items are obviously related and in fact a number of 68000 systems houses are supposed to be talking to Relational Technology. The connection with the last item needs a little explanation. For those of you unfamiliar with the accounting process, bookkeeping is just a set of glorified, cross referenced tables. Almost child's play to a relational database system. Help seems to be on the way for all those businesses that up until recently have had to fit their business to some predefined off the shelf accounting system. And that's just the tip of the iceberg for this application. The best way to visualize a relational database is as a set of tables in which each data item is entered into a row in the table, with the different columns representing the different types of information contained in a data entry (eg. name, address, salary). Now imagine being able to manipulate the information in almost any conceiveable way. Extracting data based on any of its individual values (contained in any number of tables). Creating new tables from any existing data and so on.

The strength of a relational system is its flexibility. In the real world, a major corporation went looking for a database to handle a major application. It offered each vendor the specifications and sole use of a VAX computer for 48 hours. At the end of that time, the vendor was to have his system working and ready for evaluation. As it turns out, the only two vendors who were able to get to the evaluation stage were both offering relational databases.

Before signing off, I want to re-emphasize the importance of backing up your work. I'm fairly religious about it so when the disk I was typing this article on the first time, crapped out, all I lost was about half of the article. It might sound a bit excessive but part of your logging off procedure (before you shut the machine off) should be to backup up any changes that you've made during your current session. All it takes is one bad sector to lose hours or days of hard work.

I would also like to hear from any of you out there who have had trouble with the Osborne's power supply. When I told a service person that my screen starts to flicker everytime drive A starts up, he explained that it sounded like my power supply was on its way out. I've only had my machine for about 6 months and it seems a bit early for things to start wearing out. I'd just like to find out if this is simply my misfortune or if we Osborne owners have a more general quality problem.

* * *

APPLICATION TOOLBOX

This column will appear in this location every month. This month there were no contributions for it so this reminder is appearing instead. These articles should be about different uses for standard software. For example, how to prepare tax returns with SuperCalc spreadsheet or how to use Computer Chef to to prepare an index of articles and books as you read them.

* * *

SYSTEM NOTES

Two dBASE II Eccentricities

by Rich Weiss

If in a long dBASE II program (.CMD file) a seemingly straight forward calculation doesn't seem to be working, e.g.,

STORE A + (B * C) + D TO Z

try putting in another set of parenthesis, e.g.,

STORE (A + (B * C) + D) TO Z

this often makes a difference.

Also, in long programs when a variable is first referenced at the beginning and then is manipulated later on dBASE II has a tendency to lose track of the initial value. If this happens try shortening the name of the variable to six or less characters.

Given the choice between dBASE II and BASIC I'll take dBASE II every time even if inconsistencies, such as these, show up occasionly.

* * *

How to Pick Your OSBORNE's Pocket

by John Olson

I have found the storage pockets on my Osborne to be very handy and, consequently, use them extensively. However, I have also found that I have difficulty getting a grip on the diskettes to pull them out when the pockets are full - my Osborne is the older-style brown case without the finger relief notches seen on the newer model. Eventually frustration got the best of me and I decided to do something about it.

My solution was to fasten a cloth ribbon at the top center of the pocket opening which can then run free around the back of the diskettes in the pocket to eventually protrude back out the bottom of the stack. A simple pull on the protruding tab of ribbon brings all the diskettes out for handling without any fuss. The installation is easy, materials inexpensive, and the operation as simple as an anvil.

Each pocket takes about 14 inches of ribbon (I used grey rayon seam binding, a little over 1/2 inch wide). To provide a finished end and prevent unraveling, I folded about 1/2 inch of the ribbon up and over and glued the folded section to the main section of ribbon using common household glue in a tube (such as DUCO or Scotch Super Strength Adhesive). This end will eventually be fixed to the top of the pocket opening. The other end of the ribbon, which will become the pull tab, is finished in a similar fashion except that about 1-1/2 inch is folded back and only the last 1/2 inch at the cut end is glued down. The pull tab becomes a doubled-over loop of fabric which remains soft and flexible rather than stiff, as it would be if entirely glued. Be sure that both folded ends are glued to the same side of the ribbon so that the other side remains smooth and free of lumps and bumps that might snag on diskette storage sleeves.

To install, arrange a single ribbon inside the storage pocket so that it is centered right to left and runs from upper front of the pocket to the back, then loops down and back out the front. The "pull tab" end should come out on the bottom of the pocket - the end to be fastened should be on the top side. Be sure that the smooth side of the ribbon faces the inside of the open loop that is formed in this step. Fasten the short previously-glued section of ribbon to the inside top surface of the storage pocket, keeping the outer end of the ribbon flush with the outer edge of the pocket and centered right to left. I used hot melt glue here to eliminate any need for clamping. Repeat for the other pocket, if desired.

To use, start with the ribbon dangling free across the front of the pocket and insert into the pocket the stack of diskettes you wish to store. The diskettes should slide into place, pulling the ribbon along, and end up with a 1/2 inch pull tab sticking out at the bottom of the stack. This will, in the jargon of the day, "deploy a digitally-operated random diskette storage and retrieval system. Pull tab to activate."

This really is an easy modification to make, and handy too; the original installation took less time than the preparation of these instructions.

* * *

WS Tips & Tricks

by Paul Pease

Working daily on WordStar, as I do, I sometime find out little secrets of the program by accident. I'll keep passing mine along if you'll share yours, too.

F'rinstance: My finger moved too quickly when I was changing logged disks from the main menu. I hit L B, then return without a colon. And it worked anyway! Howard at Digital Deli told me that the need for a colon was dropped in WS 2.26 and later editions, but they didn't go back in and take out the instruction.

WARNING ABOUT SETUP: Last time I wrote some tips, I showed what I have programed into the ten function keys, a total of 90 characters. That was a trial-and-error total, because when I added a 91st, it went away--totally out into the blue somewhere.

Figuring I had made some incredible blunder, I simply redid the SETUP carefully, but stopped at 90 characters. It stuck. At the FOG meeting, one of the genii told me that he had blown away his setup the same way and figured out that the damn thing only takes 90, not 92 characters. SO DON'T BELIEVE IT WHEN IT SAYS YOU HAVE X REMAINING. YOU HAVE X-2 characters left.

NOW FOR A SAVE: If you're like me, you get pushed sometimes (and a little cocky, I suppose, since you're now a Star at WS) and open a new file without changing the logged disk or giving it a B: address. The awful moment comes when you hit ^Ks; you get three (3!) BDOS errors and then the most humiliating and teeth-grinding insult of all: FATAL ERROR F28: CLOSE FAILURE, SYSTEM FAILURE, OR YOU CHANGED DISKETTES, YOU DUMB BASTARD.

This ever happen to you? Welcome to the human race. Now for the sometimes solution (sometimes, because you have to notice that your document has an A: prefix b e f o r e you ^Ks or ^Kd): If you do see it in time, mark it as a block (^Kb at the beginning, ^Kk at end) and then hit ^Kw. Now OI will ask, "What file do you want to write the marked block on?" and you can type B:filename. Then ^Kh the block and exit gracefully with a humble ^Kq, so that you don't have to submit to the final humiliation of an R/O error on the A drive when you try to save it. (I have since, in recognition of my rampant humanity, made an extra, unprotected WS disk and left some room for my dumbness on it by dumping INSTALL.COM. That's obviously an easier way to go if you've got enough disks around.)

DISCOVER the MARKERS! As a writer, I sometimes have six or eight pages in a document. WordStar doesn't act right when the document gets much longer. But it's tiresome to ^Qc through five or six pages to find the one where there's a bad typo. By adding a numbered marker to each page (^K1,2,3, etc.), you can zip right to page 3 or 6 by using the quick find (^Q3,6, etc.) to go there. Try it. But there is one little possible glitch; those markers go away if you save with a ^Kd (or ^Kx) before you do a ^Ks. But if you do it right, it's a neat time-saver.

GLOBAL CHANGE: Now where was I? I think most writers have found the ^Qa find-and-replace worth the price of the whole machine. I have, anyhow, and "bwung" a lot. Only recently I discovered, again by accidentally hitting a wrong function key (programmed for ^QP) that you can go back where you were by hitting the return-to-previous-place-please command, ^Qp. Just like after ^Ks-ing.

RUN, DON'T EXIT How dumb can you get? All this time I have been X-ing from the main menu to do and xdir or wash. Suddenly occured to me to try R. When you R, you run the program and, when it's over, go right back to WordStar. I'm sure the documentation told me that, but hell, even Homer nodded off once in a while.

The LAZY PROOFER: Since my Olympia types such beautiful copy ever so slowly, it didn't take me long to figure out I should proofread my stuff closely before I cleanly type up a lot of typos. Hooray for WS! A neat feature built in lets the machine's fingers do the walking. After your last ^Ks, before you ^Kd and P, start at the top of the document and hit (careful, this is weird) ^Q^Q^Z. I'm not exactly sure why, but the document starts to scroll up (or down, however you look at it) a line at a time. It moves pretty quickly, but speed it settable from the number pad. Just hit any number key. No control key needed. I usually set it at 5, and can give careful scrutiny to my masterpiece. Any time you want to fix a typo or make another edit, just hit the space bar and it stops right there. A nice feature.

FINALLY, again thanks to Howard at the Deli: If you're doing a fast ^Qa (global find/replace) and don't need to watch the cursor stop at each word to be changed, you just hit ^S after return, and it does it all secretly and fast as hell. (I just tried it on this and changed all "the"s to "xxx"s in under two seconds. Thanks, Howard.

Now your turn. If you don't want to write up your discoveries and tips, just drop me any kind of a note and I'll add yours to mine next time.

Cheers!

* * *

FOG MEMBER ANOUNCEMENTS

COLOR GRAPHICS on your Osborne 1 (?)

How would you like a color graphics system for your Osborne 1? Say, 256 x 192, 16 colors, 32 "players" (characters) similar to tohse of Atari; complete with software. A system that would work through your parallel port. The port would be switchable so you wouldn't lose it. What do you think? Would it be worth $300? If you have any comments or an interest, drop me a note. David M. Oates, 1050 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304.

* * *

OSBORNE 01 FOR SALE

Call Jim Rowe (408) 429-6978. $1300.

* * *

UPGRADES

The 80 column plus and double density upgrades are being done at OCC starting in January, and should be available locally from some dealers at about the same time. Dealers who send their people to Hayward will be authorized to upgrade machines locally, and should be able to do a beautifull job on the newer Osborne's, specifically the units with the blue case. While it may be possible for some dealers to also upgrade the older tan case units, I strongly suggest that:

ALL TAN CASE UNITS SHOULD BE SHIPPED TO OSBORNE FOR THE UPGRADES.

Both Double Density and the 80 column plus options have undergone several changes from the original plans, and some of the earlier Osbornes will require extensive modifications to properly implement these options. Osborne is setting up a line specifically for doing these upgrades, and those parts of your machine that weren't designed for these upgrades will be replaced with newer parts. In fact there's a good chance you'll end up with what's effectively a new machine in that old tan case, and it will be burned in and tested before it leaves the factory on its way home to you.

I'm told that the two week turn around is figured as worst-case and made up mostly of the time it takes UPS to get your machine to and from Hayward. The actual upgrade is expected to take about three days, including a 24 hour burn in.

John Gaudio
Denver, CO

* * *

DOG GOES INTERNATIONAL

I'm happy to announce that the Denver Osborne Group has a new member from Indonesia. This fellow came to my place for a little consulting on the O-1, and was so impressed with the Christmas issue of Dogbytes that he signed up immediately. He chose the DOG & FOG options, but was a tad concerned about getting to all the meetings.

John Gaudio
Denver Osborne Group

* * *

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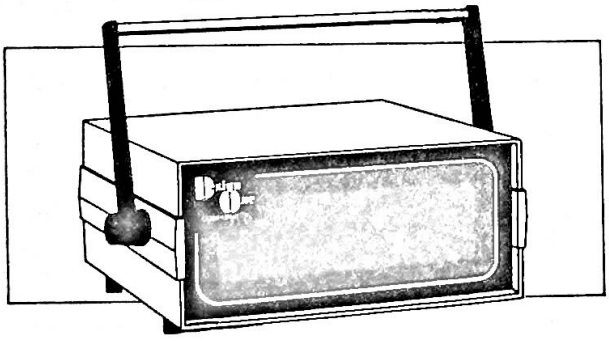

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CONGRATULATIONS MR. & MRS OSBORNE

It was my great pleasure to attend a reception for Adam and Barbara Osborne. They were married on Saturday, December 4th and by the look on Adam's face, that wedding may be the best thing to come out of OCC yet.

Best Wishes for many happy years.

John Gaudio

* * *

THE NEWLYWEDS

Sierra Madres Osborne Group (SMOG) member David Felt Took the picture of Adam and his new spouse, Barbara Burdick Osborne. The picture was taken before the wedding (on November 18, 1982) at Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratories. Adam was there for the Osborne Komputer Owners Klub (OKOK) group.

* * *

For new and renewing FOG members

The **First Osborne Group (F O G)** has been formed as a Users' Group for persons using or interested in Osborne Computers and the CP/M Disk Operating System with related Software. Membership is available to any interested party whether or not they currently own an Osborne Computer. **F O G**, the **FOGHORN**, and the diskette library are all supported by volunteer contributions of time, money, and software from all active **F O G** members. Guests are welcome at our meetings at any time (as long as they do not participate in Piracy or copying of Proprietary software), but dues of $24.00/yr in U.S. or $30.00/yr elsewhere are required in order to receive the **FOGHORN**, have access to the diskette Library, or derive other available benefits.

CUT HERE

First Osborne Group (**F O G**) Membership Application Form

		Yes	No	Maybe
NAME: _____	O-1 Owner?	☐	☐	☐
ADDRESS: _____	Modem?	☐	☐	☐
CITY: _____	INTERESTS: _____			
STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____	_____			
PHONES: _____	chapter _____			

Send the completed application and your payment to: **First Osborne Group (F O G)**, P. O. BOX 11683-A, Palo Alto, CA 94306

FOG LIBRARY NEWS

November 1982

by Jim Woolley

The other day I went looking for Eliza. The DISK.DOC file on -FOG/GAM.003 says she may be found there; however, it's not true. If you need her help, look on -FOG/GAM.012.

Beginning this month, assembly language .ASM files will be stored in the library in their squeezed .AQM form. There are two reasons for this. First, it results in a significant reduction of disk space required to store the file. Second, those who wish to work with assembly language will probably be comfortable with squeeze/unsqueeze procedures. Squeezed assembly language .AQM files may be unsqueezed using utilities found on -FOG/UTL.003, .004, and .014. Also, because of its general usefulness for displaying both squeezed and unsqueezed text files, TYPE17.COM has been duplicated on -FOG/LIB.002 from -FOG/UTL.014. See DISK.DOC on the latter disk for use of TYPE17.

Disks introduced this month include -FOG/GAM.013 and -FOG/GAM.XXX, /UTL.014 and .015, /APP.010, /MIS.005 and .006, -FOG/LNG.008 and .009, and /HAK.006. Following is a synopsis of DISK.DOC files from each of these new library disks:

-FOG/GAM.013

This disk contains support files for the Adventure game AD.COM found on -FOG/GAM.014 (currently preliminary and given the sequence number .XXX). This version was received from the Osborne Users Group (OUG) of the Washington D.C. area.

This Adventure game is similar but more detailed than Adventure found on -FOG/GAM.001. In particular, you can interrupt a game for continuation at a later time.

-FOG/GAM.XXX

This disk contains AD.COM, an Adventure game supported by files found on -FOG/GAM.013.

ALIENS is a machine language graphics game.

This disk is preliminary. Additional files will be added in future weeks.

-FOG/UTL.014

All files on this disk were submitted by Byron McKay of FOG.

This disk contains several utilities for setting special print modes on matrix printers. EPSET2 and NECSET were written by Kent Walker of FOG to set modes on the Epson and NEC printers respectively. SETMX and SETOK will set modes on the Epson an Okidata printers respectively. (A related program EPSNPRTR may be found -FOG/UTL.009.) Kent Walker also wrote TOGGLE to switch between an RS232 serial printer and an IEEE-488/Centronics parallel printer for those who have both.

Squeezed .AQM files may be unsqueezed using utilities found on -FOG/UTL.003 and .004. Also, this disk contains SQ-16, USQ-19, and TYPE17, which are updated versions of the squeeze/unsqueeze utilities. TYPE17 will display on the screen one or a group of ASCII text files, squeezed or unsqueezed. That is, if the file specified is a squeezed file, such as NECSET.AQM, the file will be displayed in its unsqueezed form. TYPE17 produces 7-bit ASCII with bit 8 set to zero (as in PIP option Z), so WordStar Document mode files are readable. Screen displays are blocked in groups of 24 lines; however, this blocking is inconsistent when several files are to be displayed during one session.

ERAA erases files like the CP/M command ERA, except that the program will request confirmation for each file to be erased.

SAP will sort and pack your disk directory. The SAP process eliminates hidden directory references to ERAsed files, so UNERA cannot recover a previously erased file. Any files saved after SAPing will appear at the end of a DIR list and, therefore, probably not in alphabetical order; this may be an aid to identify updated versions.

OREMOTE will permit attachment of a remote console (terminal or computer) thru the serial/modem port in parallel with the CP/M console (keyboard and screen). Characters entered at either console will be echoed to both; therefore, the remote console can control your computer. For example, someone at the remote console could execute your programs. If you leave your Osborne at home powered up and attached to an auto-answer modem, you could call from a terminal at work and operate your computer at home.

-FOG/UTL.015

This disk contains OSPATCH! from Mechanized Knowledge of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. They have given FOG written permission to distribute the program on a non-commercial basis. Its function is to patch the Osborne 1 COPY.COM utility for more reliable disk formatting and copying.

The OSPATCH files were submitted by Jim Crowell of FOG. The remaining files on this disk were submitted by Byron McKay of FOG.

Originally version 6.5 of OSPLINK was submitted. This was a version of PLINK similar to PLNK0124 found on -FOG/UTL.013, except it used modem input/output routines specific for the Osborne 1. This looked promising as a smart terminal emulator which would be simple to use for ASCII text communication. Therefore, I decided to smooth out some rough spots, clean up the user interface, and improve documentation. I added the ability to simultaneously print on the CP/M list device (for example, an Epson printer) interfaced thru the Osborne 1 parallel (IEEE-488 or Centronics) port; this is a feature which is not available (to my knowledge) on any of the other modem/terminal routines presently in the FOG library. Since the changes were extensive, I named this version 7.0.

LISTT will print a file on the CP/M list device with a versatile selection of options. It zeroes out the parity bit (like PIP option Z), so WordStar Document mode files will be legible.

DIRR is like the Osborne 1 utility XDIR except that it displays four columns across. This may be useful for those who have an 80-column screen and, perhaps, double-density disks.

Using EX12 you may enter a series of CP/M commands and related line input to be executed sequentially. Its function is similar to the Osborne 1 utilities SUBMIT.COM and XSUB.COM. Control characters may be represented by ^ (carat) followed by the letter defining the control character (for example, ^C, ^P, or ^M).

SWEEP36.DOC describes use of SWEEP36, which may be found on -FOG/UTL.013.

-FOG/APP.010

MPGI.CAL is a SuperCalc spreadsheet to calculate cost of fuel given mi/gal and $/gal.

EDITOR is provided in two forms -- as an MBASIC program and as a compiled .COM command file. This program is a line oriented editor like ED. There are few instructions, but trial and error is a good learning technique. One advantage of EDITOR is that you can use it to edit an MBASIC program while remaining in MBASIC. EDITOR was received from the Phoenix Osborne Group (PhOG).

S. R. Ducker of Gulf Breeze, FL, submitted the rest of these files. STCKEXMP and STOCKS help manage a portfolio of stocks. Use STCKEXMP to initialize the securities data onto the file STOCKFL. Then STOCKS calculates current portfolio value.

NFLSTATS is used to initialize each team's Power Rating as published in "Pro Football Annual" during the summer. Then NFLUPDAT updates this rating following weekend games. NFLFYL is used to store the data.

TRAVS is a solution program for the "traveling salesman" optimization problem. This may be thought of as a generic problem to find the path of least cost thru all of a set of objectives. This is a CBASIC program.

-FOG/MIS.005

This disk was first introduced into the library in preliminary form as -FOG/MIS.XXX. It is now complete; therefore, sequence number 5 has been assigned.

This disk contains several MBASIC programs. BIORYTHM produces a printer chart based upon your birth date. COMPAT determines the compatibility of two people; turn on the printer. EASTER calculates the date of Easter for any given year. GRAPHNUM, by David Anning of FOG, displays the full range of Osborne graphics. POETRY prints verse on the printer. (Notice, some of these programs have .DOC files with further information.)

The following MBASIC programs were submitted by Byron McKay of FOG. OZIPS converts ZIP codes to states. YKW presents an interesting graphical display.

BBSLIST.001 was submitted by Byron McKay of FOG. It contains a list of computerized bulletin board services around the nation.

CPMFTH and FTHCPM, submitted by Jim Crowell of FOG, convert between CP/M text and FORTH screen files. CPMFTH is an MBASIC program; FTHCPM is a FORTH program.

ZCPR-WS.DOC, also submitted by Jim Crowell, describes changes to ZCPR.ASM to facilitate use of TYPE with WordStar files. This is expected to be of little use until the library gets a copy of ZCPR.ASM.

Mike Marzalek of Cotati, CA, submitted the next two programs. He used BNCHMRK to time MBASIC, CBASIC, and 8080 assembly language programs. HI-RES is an MBASIC subroutine facilitating block graphics on the Osborne screen. Refer to the .TXT files for each program.

-FOG/MIS.006

This disk contains a demonstration of the Fancy Font software available from SoftCraft of Los Angeles. The demonstration files were placed in the public domain and submitted to the FOG library by SoftCraft. They illustrate "the high quality of printing which can be achieved by an Epson printer in graphics mode...." An Epson MX80 or MX100 with Graftrax-80 or Graftrax-Plus is required.

OSCREEN.BAS groups together Osborne 1 screen controls for use in BASIC programs.

OSBDSCIO.C and OSMDIO.C contain C language routines related to Osborne 1 input/output.

-FOG/LNG.008 and .009

-FOG/LNG.008 and .009, submitted by Jack Beale and Frank Morton of FOG, contain the JRT Pascal system originally sold for $29.95 by JRT Systems, 1891-23rd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122, (415)566-5100. Their advertisement (see BYTE, 10/82) specifically authorizes copying the diskettes, "so long as it's not for resale."

If this system is of interest to you, perhaps you should purchase the complete package including documentation from JRT Systems.

-FOG/HAK.006

This disk contains the Tarbell database programs DBSETUP, DBENTRY, and DBQUERY previously found on -FOG.020. These are CBASIC programs. INV and INV.IND are sample database files. For information, see DATABASE.DOC.

STRTRK/2 is an MBASIC Startrek program which needs work. It was received from the Osborne Users Group (OUG) of the Washington D.C. area.

MFACCESS, from -CPMUG.036, is an assembly language library file which processes wild card filenames.

The remaining are squeezed assembler files (.AQM). ADE is an absolute disk editor from -CPMUG.019. BANNER, from -CPMUG.008, prints some sort of banner. DDTPATCH, also from -CPMUG.008, is a patch for DDT. UCOPY is a universal disk copy program. DIRS9/8 is a sorted directory program. PROM is for programming PROMs. These last three programs are from -CPMUG.047.

That completes the synopsis of new library disks introduced during the month of November.

* * *

Library News for December

by Jim Woolley

First let me give credit where due. I have downloaded several of the more recent files from the following remote CP/M (RCP/M) systems:

OxGate 1 (408)287-5901
RCP/M Sunnyvale (408)730-8733
OxGate 2 (408)263-2588
Cro'sNEST RCP/M (408)732-2433

OxGate 2 is a "ringback" system; let it ring once, then call back.

The library disk -FOG/UTL.015 has an extraneous file named /.COM. Please ignore it.

Disks introduced this month include -FOG/UTL.016 thru .018, -FOG/APP.011 and .012, and -FOG/MIS.007. Following is a synopsis of DISK.DOC files from each of these new library disks:

-FOG/UTL.016

This disk contains three MENU programs. MENU will display a list of .COM command files which exist on your disk. You may select one from the list; it will then be executed automatically. BMENU will do a similar function for .BAS files, which are assumed to be MBASIC programs. CMENU will do the same for .INT files, which are assumed to be CBASIC programs.

CPYFIL15 copies files from one disk to another, a function similar to PIP. Each transfer is confirmed.

XAMN is a general disk examination utility. Its function is similar to DUU found on -FOG/UTL.006, but XAMN is more "user friendly." The program is self-prompting with help screens.

The above programs were submitted by Byron McKay of FOG. Jim Crowell, also of FOG, submitted SYNONYM. This program will create a .COM file having a name of your choice which, when executed, will cause another .COM file to run. For example, you might create a synonym command called TREK which will cause the command MBASIC STARTREK to be executed

BDLOC will print the address of BDOS (basic disk operating system) and CCP (console command processor).

FILEFIND, submitted by Gale Rhoades of FOG, will search all disks and user numbers to locate a specified file. When found, the drive and user number will be displayed.

PBH will print a banner heading and/or the text of a file on your list device.

-FOG/UTL.017

This disk contains the library utility LU, which permits you to pack many small files into one larger library file.

Similarly, you may withdraw individual files from the library. If the library contains .COM command files, these may be run using LRUN.

SAFRAM allows you to protect an area of high memory from being overwritten.

FMAP, submitted by Gale Rhoades of FOG, displays information about your disk directory or will perform a variety of other functions. It is a newer version of FMAP found on -FOG/UTL.002.

VMAP is an MBASIC program which will prepare a cross-reference of variables used in another MBASIC program.

XCOPY, submitted by Jim Schenkel of FOG, will copy files from one disk to another using a single drive.

-FOG/UTL.018

OTERM4.COM, (c) 1981, 1982 by Michael M. Rubenstein ver. 4 (4 Oct 82): a terminal emulator and modem program for Osborne 1 rev. 1.2 and up. SF FOG member Peter Fleming downloaded this public domain software from CompuServe and R. Hunter Morey wrote the DISK.DOC file describing how to view and printout the documentation files: OTSETUP.DOC and OTERM4.DOC (which he reformatted including redoing the OTERM4.DOC Index).

OTERM4 is a major update of OTERM and OTERM303 found on -FOG/UTL.010 and .012.

-FOG/APP.011

This disk contains the checkbook management system described in CHKBOOK.DOC. This system includes CMENU, CBOOK, CDAILY, and C-UPDATE. It is a CBASIC system including both source (.BAS) files and compiled intermediate (.INT) files. The system is menu driven.

Jim Schenkel of FOG submitted LOOKUP, FINANCE, and MEASURE. LOOKUP will search a file for all records (lines of data) containing a keyword. Each record is assumed to be ASCII text terminated by <RETURN>. Only upper case ASCII is searched. The program will prompt for keywords. BOOK is a sample telephone book for use with LOOKUP.

FINANCE and MEASURE are MBASIC programs. FINANCE calculates loans, deposits, and compound interest. MEASURE performs conversions between common units.

NEWGENEA is an MBASIC program for genealogists received from the Cincinnati Osborne Group.

MAGE will recover all or part of a WordStar file left in memory. This may be useful if some error prevents WordStar from saving a file on disk, for example, when the disk becomes full.

WSMODS1 was submitted by Carl Flarity of FOG. It groups together several WordStar modifications, including WSFAST from -FOG/APP.006 and NEC 8023A printer control commands.

-FOG/APP.012

This disk contains RPN, a programmers calculator, submitted by David Brower of FOG. Using reverse polish notation, calculations may be performed in decimal, hexadecimal, octal, or ASCII. The system is screen oriented and very friendly. It is highly recommended for serious programmers.

OWS was submitted by Jim Crowell of FOG. It may be used to eliminate the side-to-side jitter during vertical scrolling in WordStar.

The remaining files are sample SuperCalc .CAL spreadsheets. BPROFIT, BUGWS1, and PARTWS1 relate to a dealership which also sells maintenance service and parts. A/RJOURN, DISBURS1 & 2, PAYABLES, RECEIVAB, and RECONCIL relate to the usual bookkeeping applications.

-FOG/MIS.007

HINTS3, OSHINTS, OSPATCH, and OSTRICKS are .DOC files submitted by Byron McKay of FOG. Each includes useful information pertinent to the Osborne 1.

WS-MNEM.MSG, submitted by Jim Crowell of FOG, and WSLABELS, submitted by Carl Flarity of FOG, each describe labels used inside the WordStar program and recognized by WordStar's INSTALL program.

Carl Flarity also submitted SCANNER.TXT with information for those who use radios which scan police, fire, ambulance, etc., frequencies.

Gale Rhoades of FOG submitted RCPMLIST.24 with information about remote CP/M systems. Also, see BBSLIST.001 on -FOG/MIS.005.

BASCOM53.DOC describes version 5.3 of Microsoft's BASIC compiler. MICROSFT.SAV discusses Microsoft's FORTRAN and M80 packages.

That completes the synopsis of new library disks introduced through December.

* * *

Your Bit Parade

by Jim Woolley

The reorganized FOG disk library of public domain software was introduced in September. We will soon have more than 1000 separate files on over 80 disks. It occured to me that the newer members of FOG are probably overwhelmed by the thought of trying to find the most useful files from this treasure chest. Therefore, I decided to establish a list

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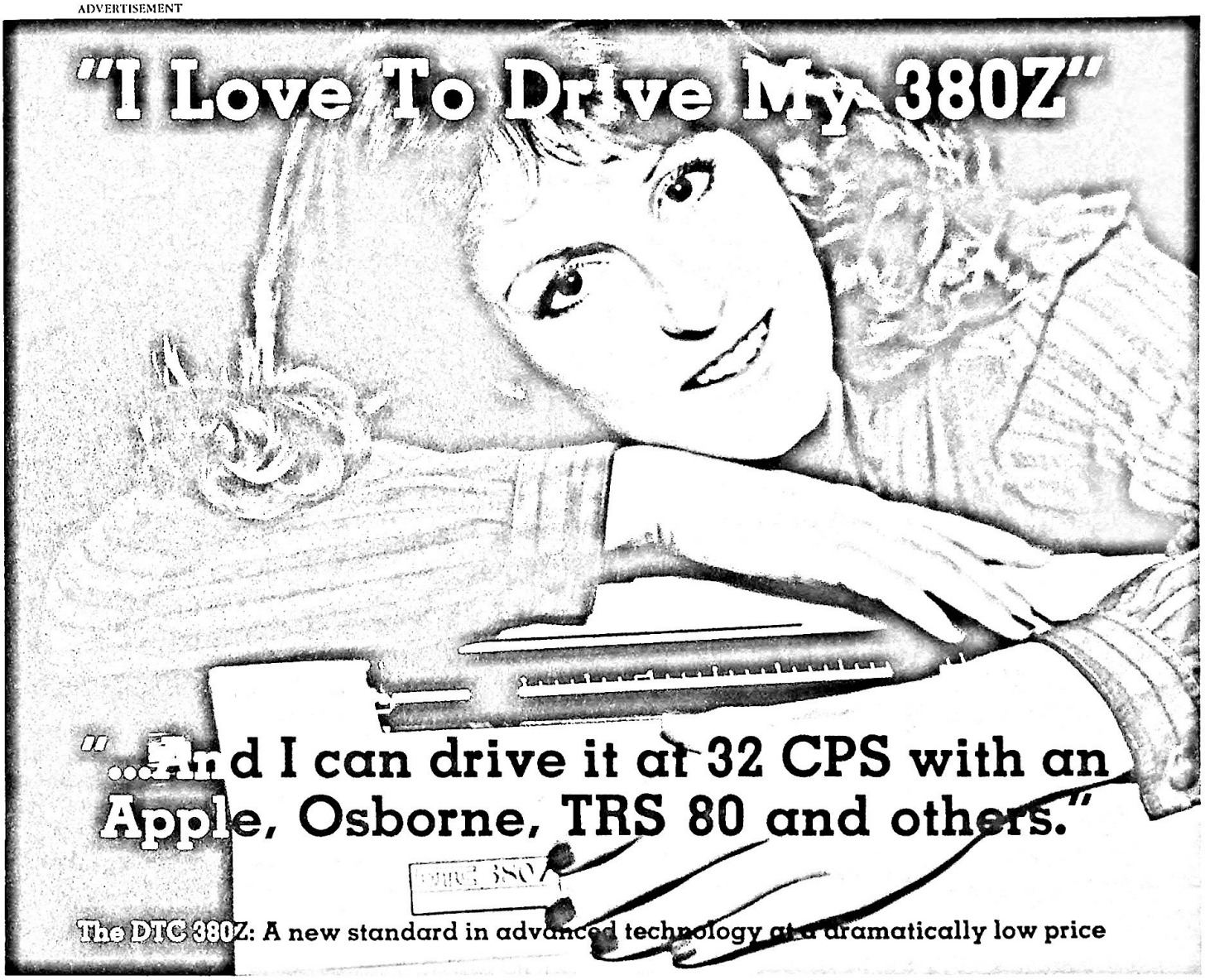
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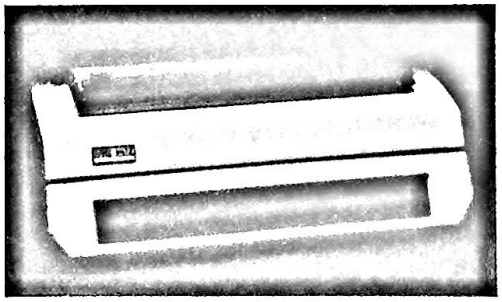

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of "hits". But rather than impose my judgment of what is the most useful, helpful, fun, or unique, I would like you to tell me which programs, games, or informative text files you like best.

Following is a simple form. Please indicate your choices for each category. Identify either a specific filename, such as SWEEP36.COM, or a system of programs, like the disk catalog system. You need not fill out the entire questionaire, nor do you have to use this specific form. The results will be compiled, published in FOGHORN, and recorded in the library. Every few months we'll ask you to update Your Bit Parade. (By the way, how many of you remember Snooky Lansen? You do, huh. Well, how do you spell his first name?)

Your Bit Parade:
Indicate your FOG disk library favorites by category.

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2._____	5._____
UTILITIES:	3._____
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Send to: Jim Woolley
FOG Disk Librarian
P. O. Box 11683-A
Palo Alto, CA 94306

PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE "BIT PARADE"

FOG MERCHANDISE

FOG has several software packages available for sale. SMARTKEY, SMARTPRINT, and the CP/M Extension Utilities were all reviewed in Vol. 1, Issue 10 (October, 1982).

One additional item has been added to the FBN Software line. This is a program called UNPROTECT. We hope to run a review in a later issue.

UNPROTECT is an 8080/8085/Z80 machine language program which runs under CP/M. Its purpose is to decrypt Micrsoft BASIC (Release 5) files which have been saved in a protected format. It is hoped that anyone buying and using this software will remember that this program should only be used to correct errors in PROTECTed files of which you have a legal copy. Please bear in mind that piracy is both illegal and a sure way to reduce the software available for your use.

For those who have previously considered buying either SMARTKEY OR SMARTPRINT, there has been a price increase as shown below. This is due to a new marketing contract that FBN has with one of the major software distributors.

Prices on the software are as follows:

SMARTKEY only	$35.00
SMARTPRINT only	$60.00
SMARTKEY/SMARTPRINT	$85.00
CP/M Ext. Utility Pkg	$39.00
UNPROTECT	$29.00

We also have available a set of two cassette tapes which are designed for the new Osborne user. Created for a 1.2 rev. model Osborne, the tapes none the less will be very helpful if listening to a step-by-step procedure is an easier way for you (or the family) to learn. The set of tapes are $25.00

We currently have a good inventory of the software, though we are a little short of the cassette tapes. However, the suppliers can normally ship within a couple of days.

We have one last item in our inventory. This is the "green" screen for the Tan cased machines. Made from green or orange plexiglas, the screens come with mounting. The price is $5.50. Supply of these screens is limited to the stock on hand.

To order any of these items, please send your payment to P. O. Box 3051, Daly City, CA, 94015. If shipment cannot be made within a week, your check will be returned. We cannot sell the manuals separately.

* * *

CONTACTS

This Section of the suffered the greatest from the data loss suffered in December. Most of the more than 200 listings appear to have been lost. If your group should be listed but is not (or if you should not be listed), please notify us immediately. Send the listing to P. O. Sox 3051, Daly City, CA, 94015. Mark the envelope "CONTACTS". The more information you include, the better listing we can provide.

This column will not appear in its entirety every month. However, we will try list have at least the new listings each month.

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Reuben N Mizrahi
261 West Point Avenue, Somerset, NJ, 08873

PA, PHILADELPHIA--Phil. Region O. C.
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P. O. Box 1128, Kulpsville, PA, 19443

MD, PASADENA
Warren Hamblet
875 New London Harbour, Pasadena, MD, 21122

VA, RICHMOND--Osborne Users Group of Richmond
Ernest F. Poland
3000 Driftwood Ave., Colonial Heights, VA, 23834

FL, ALTAMONTE SPRINGS--Central Fla Osborne Group
John H. Rauch
204 Whipporwill Drive, Altamonte Springs, FL, 32701

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Dave Garner -- Education Computing Systems
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Charlie Hodges
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Oberlin, OH, 44074

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Indianapolis, IN, 46220

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James M. McHutchion
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